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Wilmington Journal.

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WILMINGTON, N. C., FEB. 11, 1865.

Now that the conference between our commissioners and the President and Secretary of State of the United States is over and has resulted in effecting nothing directly towards peace, it may not be out of place to see whether it may not have effected something indirectly.

It is perfectly evident that from the first announcement that a conference was to take place until the conference had taken place, no other subject occupied anything like the same prominent place in the public mind of the United States, as well as of the Confederacy.—People reasoned with themselves that the chances were largely opposed to any probability of peace from this movement, but all that would not and could not prevent their minds from dwelling upon that one engrossing topic. If we are anxious for peace, so are the Northern people. If we are disappointed by the failure of this attempt at negotiation, so, to doubt, are they. We will venture to say that the matter was discussed, canvassed, wished for in every circle in Philadelphia, Boston or New York, just about as earnestly and as anxiously as it was in Confederate circles in Richmond, Wilmington, Charleston or Mobile.

The minds of the people of both countries have been turned towards peace, and they will now return to war with less alacrity and less relish. Conscript on or the draft will be less popular than ever, and will be endured with less patience, and we have no doubt but this decay of patience will be felt even more strongly at the North than at the South, although for a time it will be felt in both countries.

There will be fresh demonstrations by party leaders at the North, in the hope and with the view of getting up another war furor, and some of these Democrats or copperheads who have so far, for their own party purposes, cried great devotion to States Rights and constitutional guarantees, will now suddenly experience a change, and find themselves converted to the war or subjugation policy, but that will not remove from the public mind that anxious longing for peace to which the late movements have given rise.

We fear very much that the enemy has succeeded in cutting the line of the South Carolina Railroad at Branchville or at some point west of Branchville.

The importance of this event can hardly be overestimated, especially now that the port of Wilmington is closed by the capture of Fort Fisher, and no more supplies for General Lee's army can be brought in through the blockade.

The great importance of the South Carolina Railroad west of Branchville arises from the fact that it is the only road connecting Virginia and the Carolinas with Georgia, Alabama, Florida and Mississippi. We do not see how any supplies can be brought from the southwest for Lee's army, and we don't know whether Virginia and North Carolina can feed that army and support their own population. This is a most important question involving neither more nor less than our continued ability to hold Richmond and Petersburg, and we suppose it is no news to any one to be informed that speculations have been indulged in as to the possibility of General Lee, in a certain contingency falling back upon Tennessee. That contingency has not yet arrived, but its occurrence regarded as very probable if certainly not imminent, but by no means impossible.

The question of the employment of colored troops in our armies is fast looming up into importance, and bids fair soon to engross the attention of the whole country. It is a very delicate question, and requires to be handled cautiously and thoughtfully. Few of us can take in its ultimate consequences at one glance. We all can see that it involves a sacrifice, but considered as a mere question of property, not a greater sacrifice than we are willing to make for independence. But it is not a mere question of property. It is a social question. It implies a social revolution, the consequences of which we can but dimly foresee. And even then, if willing to take the risk of this revolution we must pause to ask ourselves the question as to whether the sacrifice we are called upon to make will lead to further the object we have in view—the attainment of our independence. Can we venture on the measure with safety. Have we any assurance that our new allies would respond to the call made upon them? Would they fight for us?—Would they be faithful to the Confederate banner with empty rations and tattered shoes, while the enemy offered them full bellies and whole clothes? What inducements could we hold out to insure the fidelity of negro soldiers? At any rate what new inducement? Let us reflect upon all these things. Let us analyze them calmly and fully, looking them straight in the face and not deceiving ourselves in any way. We must do it. The issue is upon us, and will not be dodged.—Upon its proper solution the most momentous consequences may depend.

We rather think that neither Francis P. Blair, "nor any other man," no matter how white his hair or paternal his appearance will be able again to fool our people at Richmond by plausible talk about peace, without authority or the shadow of authority or even without in any request made by Lincoln, if the latter is to be believed. Surely we may quote the old Latin proverb, *Montes parturiunt, et nascetur ridiculus mus*. The mountains were in labor and brought forth a contemptible mouse. By the way, the last two words hardly need translating. They do very well as they are, for sure enough this mountain has brought forth a ridiculous muss.

On the whole we must think it better that the question of peace negotiations was disposed of so promptly. Better that there should be no delay or doubt about it than that Messrs. Stephens, Hunter and Campbell should have been carried to Washington and amused there, while the people were kept in suspense, and their attention distracted from the inevitable necessity of the hour. It appears to us that Seward was unusually frank or unusually incautious in putting so speedy an end to the farce, as well as in his admission of the probability of foreign complications likely to arise after the "rebellion" is "crushed out." There is either a great deal of confidence or a great deal of bravado in the whole affair, and which it is we are unable to say.—Seward is astute, but not always as diplomatic or as cautious as he might be.

We find nothing in the Charleston or Columbia papers calculated to throw any additional light upon Sherman's movements. We have no Augusta papers which would seem to add confirmation to the report of the enemy having struck the South Carolina Railroad between Branchville and Augusta.

We find the following startling item from the sea-coast of our own State in yesterday's Goldsboro' *Journal*:

From our Kinston Correspondence.
KINSTON, Feb. 8.

Editor State Journal:

The news from below is startling. A gentleman who arrived here at daylight reports that the enemy have landed 20,000 troops at Morehead City, with five locomotives and railroad iron sufficient to lay thirty miles of track. The news seems reliable.

As a general rule our negroes prove faithful, and will probably continue to do so, so long as the enemy puts them in the army and we do not. In this difference we have our main guarantee for their fidelity. Remove this guarantee and what other have we?

We may say—we may feel—yea, we may know that we are truer friends of the colored race than the enemy, but that knowledge or belief on our part is not all that is needed. The colored race must share that impression—must be led to feel that this is their country, and that they have an interest in fighting for it. Can we feel any assurance of this. We offer them freedom *after the war* as the reward of their services in the war. The enemy offers it *immediately* to all. In any case the boon is a doubtful one, but by offering it as a reward—an inducement for service—we virtually admit that it *is* a boon, and the negroes will be led to so consider it. Will they be disposed to take it from us as a contingency *after the war*, or from the Yankees at once? It is true, once in the hands of the enemy, they will find what sort of freedom they will get from *them*, but then, it will be too late.

It is true that with freedom, we may offer the negro the priviledge of a continued residence in the country and upon the soil of his birth, with the climate that suits his temperament and constitution, but will not the Yankees promise the same and more by way of an offset to any inducements we may hold out to secure the fidelity of the negro? It will cost the Yankee government nothing to promise lands and other confiscated property of Southern people, and it is probable that the negroes will be fools enough to believe them.

Desertions are now the bane of our armies and threaten to work the ruin of our country. Deserters are not simply guilty of sins of omission by being absent from the ranks that defend the country, but they are almost always guilty of sins of commission in preventing cultivation and committing acts of robbery and destruction, and men cannot be spared to repress these outrages and compel the return of these men to their commands. How much will the list of desertions be swelled if two hundred thousand reluctant negroes are to be armed and placed in the ranks to contribute their quota? Is it not to be feared that every swamp will be a lair—a lurking place of deserters of every hue?—What safety will there be for property?—what chance for cultivation when the most able bodied laborers are taken away from the ranks of the producers to whom they will be liable to become a terror.

We do not include in our calculation the mere question of property *as* property. Where the lives of the best and bravest are daily and hourly exposed, we do not see what extra sanctity can hedge in any mere question of property. The question takes in simply the practicability of the scheme—the probability of its success, and the consequences likely to flow from or to accompany it. We confess that there may be considerations that we have overlooked, or we may have attached undue weight to the unfavorable aspects of the question, but however that may be, candor compels us to say that our reflections have not as yet had the effect of commending the measure to our judgment.—The more we look at the thing, the more strongly does our mind revert to its first conclusion. The fidelity of the negro is secured to us by not putting him in the army, while the enemy *does*. The carrying out of the measure of arming our negroes would, we fear, result in a speedy crop of deserters of the most dangerous class.

We know that others whose opinions carry much weight, entertain different views, and we submit the considerations above offered with all due humility.—They may be mistaken, still they are our views—not the result of prejudice, but of reflection, and are given for what they may be worth.

We do not think that even the fact that Sherman, or some of his forces has reached the South Carolina Railroad necessarily implies a stoppage of communication between the Carolinas and the South West. It is true there will be a short gap, but not as long as most people imagine, and the new route will be an interior and much safer route than the present, not dependent even upon the possession by us of the city of Augusta, although of course that would be important from other considerations.

We need not indicate this route, although indeed we cannot suppose that by doing so we would be giving any information to the enemy. An inspection of the railroad map will show two points in upper Georgia and upper South Carolina where branches one from the Georgia Road and the other from the South Carolina Railroad approach each other much more nearly than the Railroad systems of the two States approach each other at Columbia and Augusta. The distance from Columbia to Augusta is probably about seventy-five miles. The distance between the points referred to would not probably be much more than half that length. Of course, with moveable columns and an enterprising and powerful enemy like Sherman, no line is necessarily safe because of its location, but the line of which we have been speaking is about as safe as any line can be, and as capable of defence. With an efficient wagon train the transportation on the short gap could be maintained quite as effectually as it is over the unfortunate Piedmont Road in this State.

But without a sufficient force of determined men, it is next to useless to talk about holding any line or any point. If this force can be mustered and rallied to the repulse of Sherman and the checking of his career, it will do very much towards encouraging the people everywhere throughout the Confederacy—nor will its effect be less marked or less valuable at the North.—It will dispel the vain delusions of conquest and subjugation, under which the people there so generally labor.

JOHNSON'S COMMON SCHOOL ARITHMETIC. Raleigh, N. C., BRANSON P. FARRAR. 1864.

This book is designed for beginners, embracing the first principles of the science. It has 154 small octavo pages, fairly got up and firmly bound, and is sold at $4 50. It seems to us well calculated to answer the purpose for which it is designed.

NEITHER Lincoln nor Seward would consent to *negotiate*, but we feel pretty certain that they offered to *treat*, for both of them like a little *old rye*.

IT seems to us that the weather last night was quite cold. Don't know when we felt it colder. Fire did not seem to have any power to heat a room.

General Lee's army is to be paid off as soon as the money for that purpose can be distributed.

THE Richmond *Enquirer* of Monday, the 6th inst., has the following item:

Foreign Recognition.

We learn that the evening edition of the Baltimore "American" of Friday was received in this city on yesterday, which states that the Federal Government has been notified that its existence will only be recognized, after the 4th of March, as far as its actual civil authority extends, and that the separate nationality of the Confederate States will be recognized upon the same principle.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

SENATE.

MONDAY, Feb. 6, 1865.

A bill to amend the charter of the Piedmont Railroad (so as to cause an extension of the guage of said road to a width of five feet, to correspond with that of the Richmond and Danville Railroad) being before the Senate, Mr. Hall moved to amend by requiring the Piedmont Railroad Company to restore the present guage within six months after the termination of the war, under penalty of a forfeiture of their charter, which amendment was adopted, and the rules being suspended by a vote of yeas 31, nays 11, the bill, as amended, was put upon its second and third readings and passed the same.

Bills to re-arrange the public offices in the capitol, and to incorporate the Bill Fails Toll Bridge Company, and resolutions in favor of the Old Dominion Trading Company, and the State Commissioners to Richmond were passed.

The salary and fees bill was taken up and discussed, and pending an announcement of the action of the House on Senate amendments thereto, the Senate adjourned to 3 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The consideration of the unfinished business—being the bill to authorize the removal of State troops beyond the limits of the State in certain contingencies—was resumed, and

Mr Dick proceeded to address the Senate in continuation of his remarks on Saturday last on that subject, defining his present position in reference to the position of affairs. He was, he would say, emphatically a peace man. he spoke for peace, he voted for peace, he acted at all times for the liberties of the people. The Senator from Columbus (Mr Ellis) was for war, speaking, voting, betting, and to act for war. Continuing his remarks at some length, Mr. D. closed by saying, he feared the Senate of North Carolina would not meet again, for if meeting, be but a fragmentary assemblage of the once great commonwealth.

Mr. Hall said he cared nothing for the bill. There was no Home Guard to be effected by it—they had all been exempted by the General Assembly, and in all the State east of the Blue Ridge the Adjutant General could only gather together about nine hundred men. For himself he was an original secessionist, he believed himself right then, he believed himself right now. (Applause.) We were not conquered yet. Spain had done more than we. Prussia had endured every extremity, and should *we* yield to the adversity *they* had so unflinchingly and successfully opposed? On this question of what they would do, he wished the sentiment of the Senate of North Carolina. To obtain that sentiment, he would offer some resolutions though he had but small hopes of their meeting acceptance, and herewith he read resolutions, in substance, calling on the Military Committee to perfect and report measures to authorize the sending of the Home Guards beyond the State, if necessary, to repeal Home Guard exemptions, to consolidate the Militia and Home Guards, to reduce supernumerary officers, to organize these troops as State forces and put them in camps of instruction, and to offer the Government 20,000 negroes, to be employed in any manner it may deem best.

Mr. Odom hoped the bill would pass. He was in favour of continuing the struggle and would send the Home Guards to the moon if their presence there could subserve the public defence. To surrender now was destruction.

Mr. Pool moved to postpone the further consideration of the bill. Not agreed to, yeas 17, nays 25.

Mr. Arendell moved to lay it on the table. Not agreed to yeas 17, nays 25.

Mr. Arendell moved to postpone the further consideration till the third Thursday in May next. Not agreed to yeas 17, nays 25.

Mr. Winstead moved the Senate adjourn till to-morrow morning, at 7 o'clock. Not agreed to yeas 14, nays 28.

Mr. Warren moved to insert "*twenty five*" in place of "*thirty*," and then moved to lay the whole subject on the table. Not agreed to, yeas 27, nays 25.

Mr. Winstead moved to adjourn till to-night at 6 o'clock. Not agreed to, yeas 14, nays 17.

Mr. Ellis said a vote might be had if the opponents of the bill would extend to the friends thereof the same courtesy that had been shown them in postponing the consideration of the matter of their accommodation.

Mr. Pool proceeded to discuss the bill, arguing against its adoption at some length.

Mr. Hall said he knew the position of the Senate but he wished the country to know it. The minority had it in their power to make the majority succumb, but they would not succumb till they had shown that when a measure that might assist the cause came up for action, that minority had prevented its adoption. This bill might not be worth much in itself, but it was a straw that would show the way the wind blew, and let all know North Carolina would strike one honest blow before she fell, if fall she must.

Mr. Warren argued His Excellency the Governor, had no right to carry the Militia beyond the State, recapitulating the positions taken by him in a speech of some days since.

At the conclusion of Mr. Warren's remarks the Senate, at 6 o'clock, took a recess to 7 p. m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. Blair introduced a resolution proposing to send a message to the Senate, asking the concurrence of that body in the removal of the seal of secrecy from late Legislative proceedings, and to request the State Commissioners to prepare a report of their late mission to Richmond for publication in the newspapers of the State, which resolution was subsequently withdrawn.

Mr. Dargan introduced a resolution in favor of Messrs. Hall, Person, Pool and Carter, which, under a suspension of the rules, passed its several readings. (Provides for reimbursing expenses incurred in their late embassy to Richmond.

Mr. Carter introduced a resolution proposing a message be sent the Senate, asking the concurrence of that body in a rescinding of the joint order of adjournment, so as to provide for the re-assembling of the Legislature on the last Wednesday in March next. In support of this resolution Mr. C. proceeded to say that two questions of the day—the result of the commission to Washington and the movements of Sherman in the South—imperatively demanded the presence and consideration of the General Assembly. Not to remain in session for the purpose of so considering those matters would be, to be false to every requirement of duty.

Mr. Dargan moved the resolution be laid on the table, and it was tabled by yeas 54, nays 35.

Mr. Cowles introduced a resolution requesting His Excellency, the Governor to procure the return to their owners of certain slaves held to labor on the fortifications at Wilmington, the term of service stipulated for having expired several months ago. Agreed to.

Mr. Carter, on leave of the House, introduced a resolution to rescind so much of the joint order of adjournment as appoints Tuesday, February 7th, 1865, a day of adjourning the present session. Not agreed to, yeas 28, nays 53.

The bill to amend the Home Guard act being then under consideration.

Mr. Phillips moved to amend by exempting from Home Guard duty the municipal authorities of all incorporated towns in the State. Not agreed to, yeas 13, nays 68.

Mr. Gudger moved to amend by providing that no one shall be exempted from Home Guard duty in his own county. Agreed to, yeas 52, nays 35.

The Bill was then discussed, variously amended and passed its final reading.

Mr. Person introduced the following:

WHEREAS, authentic intelligence has been received from Richmond that our Commissioners, Messrs. Stephens, Campbell and Hunter have returned from Fortress Monroe, after having held a conference with Messrs. Lincoln and Seward; and

WHEREAS, it appears that the only terms of peace which have been offered by our enemies are that the States and people of this Confederacy shall make an unconditional submission to the Constitution and Laws of the United States, and

WHEREAS, this offer was accompanied by an announcement that the question of slavery had already been disposed of by amendments to the Constitution just passed in the Federal Congress by which slavery has been abolished, therefore,

Resolved, That the acceptance of such offer is tantamount to subjugation; that these terms are incompatible with the dignity, honour, and safety of our people, and that there is left but one alternative to us—and that is to maintain the conflict with the invader till our independence is secured; and that all the energies of Government and people ought to be put in force in order to make our defence successful.

Messrs. Phillips and Henry deprecated hasty action in this matter and proposed waiting till the report of the Commissioners should have settled the authenticity of this telegraphic information.

Mr. Grissom moved the preambles and resolution be referred to the Committee on Confederate Relations, but pending any action on the motion, the House adjourned till 3 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The bill to declare contracts hereafter made, during the continuance of the war, unless otherwise expressed, payable in currency, passed its third reading, yeas 56, nays 23.

A number of engrossed bills and resolutions were received from the Senate, and, on motion of Mr. Dargan, the House adjourned till 7 a. m., to-morrow.

THE SENATE VOTE.—The Senate having removed secrecy from its journal, we now give the vote of Senators on the important bill creating a General-in-chief and the joint resolution for the reinstatement of General Joseph E. Johnston:

Ayes—Messrs, Baker, Brown, Burnett, Caperton, Dortch, Garland, Graeam, Haynes, Henry, Hunter, Waldo P. Johnston, Maxwell, Oldham, Semmes, Smims, Sparrow, Vest, Walker, Watson, Wigfall—18.

Noes—Messrs. Barnwell and Hill—2.

Vote on the resolution requesting the President to reinstate General Johnston:

Ayes—Messrs. Brown, Burnett, Caperton, Dortch, Garland, Graham, Haynes, Henry, Hunter, Waldo P. Johnston, Oldham, Simms, Vest, Walker, Watson, Wigfall—18.

Noes—Messrs. Barnwell, Hill, Maxwell, Sparrow, Semmes—5.

"What are you going to give me for a Christmas present," asked a gay damsel of her lover. "I have nothing to give but my humble self," was the reply. "The smallest favors gratefully received," was the merry response of the lady.

TELEGRAPHIC

Reports of the Press Association.

Entered according to the Act of Congress, in the year 1863, by J. S. THRASHER, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Confederate States for the Northern District of Georgia.

SECRETARY SEDDON'S RESIGNATION.

RICHMOND, Feb. 8th, 1865.

The correspondence between the President and Mr. Seddon is published in the Sentinel this morning, showing that the latter resigned his position as Secretary of War in consequence of a resolution adopted by the Virginia delegation in Congress advising legislation in the Cabinet, by relieving all the present heads. Mr. Seddon says that after such an expression of opinion he could no longer fill the position with a full measure of usefulness to the President or the Confederacy.

The President, in reply, expressed his warm personal regard and official confidence in Mr. Seddon, and discusses at considerable length the relations between the executive and legislative departments of the government. He represents the proposition as one of the rights and privileges of the Confederate Congress, in contrast with the British Parliament.

Mr. Seddon, in reply, expresses his concurrence in the views presented by the President, but adheres to his purpose to resign.

FROM THE UNITED STATES,—NORTHERN REPORTS OF THE PEACE COMMISSION.

RICHMOND, Feb 8th, 1865.

New York papers of the 6th inst. contain voluminous telegrams from Washington relative to the result of the conference at Fortress Monroe.

A special dispatch to the Times says that Lincoln informed the Commissioners at every point that recognition was utterly out of the question, and that the United States could stop the war only on the condition and precedent that the authority of the national government should be recognized and obeyed over the whole territory of the United States. This point conceded, he assured them that upon every other matter of difference they would be treated with the utmost liberality.

Another telegram says that Mr. Stephens was the most liberal of the rebel deputation. His theory was that if we would but treat with them as an independent nation that such an agreement could be had as would practically unite the North and South.

A special dispatch to the Tribune says that Stephens surpassed all his old exhibitions of shrewdness, force and tact, in putting the demands of the Confederacy. [In the midst of them, at the conclusion of one of his points, Lincoln swung forward and interrupted him, saying, that reminds me of the story of a man in Illinois. The commissioners instantly jumped up in a roar of merriment.] After the story was through, Stephens resumed and pursued to the end his statement of the terms on which he thought the rebels would be willing to stop the war. He proposed and urged his crafty scheme of temporary recognition, but on recognition absolutely and temporarily the three commissioners stood like rocks.

The result of the conference is a union of all parties in a vigorous prosecution of the war. Fernando Wood took the war path on Saturday, Mr. Cox, and other democrats, take it to-morrow.

Gold opened in New York on Monday at 214.

Foster has been superceded by Gilmore in the command of the Department of the South.

The West Virginia Legislature has passed a bill abolishing slavery.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

RICHMOND, Feb. 8th, 1865.

In the House, the Senate resolution of thanks to Captain Semmes was unanimously concurred in. The bill for the employment of free negroes and slaves was referred to a committee of conference. The tax bill, with the substitutes thereto, heretofore considered in secret session, was further discussed in committee of the whole until the hour of adjournment.

Nothing important was done in the Senate.

FROM RICHMOND.

RICHMOND, Feb. 8th, 1865.

An official dispatch from Gen. Lee says that the enemy made no advance from their position at Hatcher's Run yesterday; his skirmishers, however, were pushed forward against some points of our lines but made no attack.

FROM PETERSBURG.

PETERSBURG, VA., Feb. 8th, 1865.

No fighting occurred to day, and quiet once more reigned. The enemy still maintains his position at Hatcher's Run, and his lines have thereby been extended but not advanced.

Gen. Sorrel was wounded in the lungs, but it is not considered mortal. Col. Houston, of Virginia, was killed in the fight on Monday.

Our loss will not reach five hundred. The enemy's loss is estimated at treble that number. The dead have all been buried and the wounded brought from the field.

The enemy are erecting observatories on our right.

The heavy cannonading yesterday afternoon was caused by our artillery shelling the enemy's lines. Both sides were engaged to day in strengthening their new lines.

THE YANKEE MOVE ON BRANCHVILLE.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 8th, 1865.

A dispatch from Gen. Wheeler, dated Holme's Bridge, Feb. 7th, 8.20, says: My pickets near Blackville this morning were charged by three brigades of cavalry, which drove them beyond the village. Dibbrell's Tennessee brigade being in that vicinity, met and charged the enemy, driving them back into the village.

A dispatch from Branchville this morning says that the enemy have made their appearance along the South Carolina Railroad beyond the Edisto. They burned a house within one mile and a half of the railroad bridge about seven o'clock yesterday evening. Our troops were withdrawn to this side of the railroad bridge, and the bridge burned.

Gen. Winder died suddenly on Monday evening of apoplexy.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

RICHMOND, Feb. 9th, 1865.

The Senate adjourned to-day immediately after the journal was read.

In the House the Senate bill authorizing the appointment of a Commissary General, with the rank of Brigadier General, was passed. During the consideration of the bill, Mr. Baldwin remarked that as chairman of the committee recently engaged in searching investigations, he and the whole committee arrived at the conclusion that the present Commissary General had conducted the business of his office with a degree of system, energy and forecast exhibited by few officers of the government.

Mr. Miles said that if Mr. Northrop could not command success, which was an indispensable qualification at this time, he should give way to some more fortunate person.

The tax bill was further considered. Pending a motion to strike out one hundred per cent. additional to the present tax, a substitute of one per cent. was rejected by a large majority.

WAR MEETING IN RICHMOND.

RICHMOND, Feb. 9th, 1865.

A great war meeting was held at the African Church today. The building was crowded an hour before the time fixed for the meeting, and thousands were unable to gain admittance. The assemblage was addressed in stirring speeches by Senator Hunter, Sheffey, speaker of the House of Delegates, Secretary Benjamin, and Gilmer of North Carolina, and then adjourned until seven o'clock.

An impromptu meeting was held at two o'clock, in the hall of the House of Delegates, and was addressed by Goode, Funsten and Baldwin of the Virginia delegation in Congress. The deportment of the people indicated their full acceptance of the continuation of the war forced upon them by the refusal of Lincoln to negotiate for peace.

The following resolutions were submitted by Mr. Sheffey, and heartily applauded:

Resolved, That events which have occurred during the progress of the war have but confirmed our original determination to strike for our independence, and that with the blessing of God we will never lay down our arms until it shall have been won.

Resolved, secondly, That as we believe our resources sufficient for the purpose, we do not doubt but that we shall conduct the war successfully and to that issue, and we hereby invoke the people, in the name of the holiest of all causes, to spare neither blood nor treasure in its maintainance and support.

Resolved, thirdly. That we tender our thanks to our soldiers in the field for their noble efforts in behalf of the country, its rights, and its liberties, and take this occasion to assure them that no effort of ours shall be spared to assist them in maintaining the great cause to which we hereby devote ourselves and our all.

FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 9th, 1865.

A dispatch from Orangeburg to-day, says that the enemy are in front of the Edisto line, near New Bridge to Duncan Bridge. The main force is said to be near the railroad.—Skirmishing is going on to-day at Bennaker's bridge. Our troops are guarding the railroad bridge.

The enemy show no disposition to force a crossing.

A dispatch from General Wheeler dated, 8 P. M., the 8th inst., says that a large column of the enemy's infantry struck the railroad at Graham's, and that another column was moving to strike between Graham's and Blackville.—Kilpatrick is at Blackville, with three brigades.

PORTER'S REPORT OF THE EVACUATION OF CASWELL AND OTHER WORKS NEAR WILMINGTON.

Admiral Porter, in his usual style—not a very dignified one—sends the Washington Naval Department an account of the evacuation of the forts on Cape Fear River after the fall of Fort Fisher. There were, according to his account, eighty-three guns found in them. In his report he says:

We have found here, in each fort, an Armstrong gun, with the "broad arrow" on it, and the name "Sir William Armstrong" marked in full on the trunions. As the British Government claims the exclusive right to use these guns, it would be interesting to know how they came into forts held by the Southern rebels. I find that immense quantities of provisions, stores and clothing have come through this port into rebeldom. I am almost afraid to mention the amount, but it is enough to supply over sixty thousand men. It is all English, and they have received the last cargo; no more will ever come this way.

We picked up a telegram from General Lee to his subordinates here, saying that if Forts Fisher and Caswell were not held he would have to evacuate Richmond. He says most truly, and I should not be at all surprised if he left it at any moment.

We have plenty of force to hold this place against the whole Southern Confederacy. I have two hundred and fifty guns bearing on the narrow strip of land where our troops are heavily intrenched. There are vessels in the river and outside, and we only hope they will attempt to retake it.

Ten thousand men in Fort Fisher, with the guns of the squadron, would hold this place a long time.

We find this a better place to catch blockade runners than outside. I had the blockade runners' light out last night, and was obliging enough to answer their signals, whether right or wrong we do not know. Two of them, the Stagg and Charlotte, from Bermuda, loaded with arms, blankets, shoes, etc., came in and quietly anchored near the Malvern, and were taken possession of.

The Stagg was commanded by Rich'd H. Gayle, a Lieutenant in the rebel navy, and belonging to the rebel Government. A number more are expected, and we will, I hope, catch a portion of them. I entrusted this duty to Lieutenant Cushing, who performed it with his usual good luck and intelligence. These two are very fast vessels and valuable prizes. They threw a portion of their papers overboard immediately on finding they were trapped.

I enclose a list of guns captured by the navy since the surrender of Fort Fisher, and the names of the different works. This number, added to those taken around Fisher, makes one hundred and sixty eight guns in all, most of them heavy ones, that have been taken.

I enclose a few papers that may be interesting. The Charlotte brings five English passengers one of them an English army officer. They all came over, as they expressed it, "on a lark," and were making themselves quite "jolly" in the cabin, over their champagne, felicitating themselves on their arrival. The Stag received three shots in her as she ran by our blockading squadron.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) DAVID D. PORTER,
Rear Admiral.

From the Mobile Register.

The Disaster in Tennessee.

A letter has been shown us from a gentleman holding a position in the Army of Tennessee which enables him to "speak the card," which letter corroborates, in the main points, the unvarying account of the cause of the Tennessee disaster. We copy such portions as relate to this subject:

"We shall never have again so good an opportunity to redeem that fairest portion of the Confederacy; and it was causelessly and cowardly thrown away. The enemy had retreated rapidly before us after we crossed the river, until they reached Columbia, where they seemed disposed to make a stand on the north side of Duck river.

"Gen. Hood crossed about five miles above Columbia with two corps, leaving Lee's in front of the enemy, and had, by a rapid march, got almost in their rear, at Spring Hill, before they discovered his movement.—They then commenced a precipitate flight, and the head of their trains was passing, when we came in sight of Spring Hill, about 4 o'clock P. M. General Cheatham, in advance, was ordered to attack immediately, as was Stewart when he came up. Both, however, from various frivolous excuses, failed to do so, and lay within half a mile of a road and allowed a Yankee army and its train to pass unmolested all night!

"The next day was fought the bloody battle of Franklin, where we tried to drive the Yankees from a position as strong as the one they had at Gettysburg. It was a terrible and senseless loss of life, for they would have evacuted the place anyhow. But the grand finale was the scene before Nashville, and a more disgraceful one I never beheld. We had a very strong line, heavily intrenched, and the men perfectly secure behind their breastworks. The enemy had made four or five assaults during the day, and had been easily repulsed all along the line, when, at about half past 3 P. M., they made an attack upon our left center, held by Bate's division. Without waiting for the assault, and offering but the slightest resistance, this division, had already disgraced itself a few days before, at Murfreesboro, was seized with a causeless panic, which soon communicated itself to the whole line, and in ten minutes the army was one wild mass of fugutives.

"Could the enemy but have known our condition and pursued vigorously, not one of us would have escaped, for there was not even an organized regiment for twenty-four hours afterwards to offer resistance. I am heartily sick and disgusted with this army; not that the material is not good enough, but of all miserable, inefficient, good-for-nothing officers the world ever saw, the meanest are right here. If there is not a reorganization, from lieutenants up to corps commanders, nothing need be expected from it.

NASSAU NEWS.—WRECKS.—The Federal cruiser San Jacinto got ashore at No Name Cay, Abaco, on the night of the 31st December, and was totally wrecked. The crew were all taken off by the wreckers and safely landed at Green Turtle Cay.

On the same night and at the same place the brigantine Princess Royal, from Bermuda, bound to this port, was also wrecked. The vessel is totally lost.—Part of the cargo, it is hoped, will be saved by the wreckers.

NAVAL.—H. M. 20 gun screw corvette Wolverine, (Captain Algernon T. R. de Horsey,) from Halifax with special dispatches, arrived in port on the 3rd January. She left the afternoon of the next day for Vera Cruz.

ANOTHER VIOLATION OF OUR NEUTRALITY LAWS.—We are informed on unquestionable authority that the steam ship Syren has been chased into the Booby Rocks by a Federal gunboat. Why our commerce is to be intercepted by Federal cruisers being allowed to lay at anchor at our Cays is a question that it is time were answered by our Government.

Bahama Herald, 4th January.

MALFEASANCE IN OFFICE.

It is the duty of citizens, when an instance of malversation in office comes under their observation, to make report of the offence to the superior authorities. It is a duty which they owe to themselves and to their country, and which they may not omit without justly incurring censure. The public interests are involved—nay, in a time like this, the public safety is at stake,—and a patriot has no proper election as to the course he will pursue.

This duty of the citizen involves a corresponding duty on the part of the officer to whom offences are to be reported. If the one must inform, the other must listen. If one must indicate the existence of malpractice, the other must promptly investigate and punish.

Nor is the duty of either the citizen or the supervising authority, by any means, confined to such cases of offence as are capable of being presented in the form of an exact accusation, supported by full and technical proof. To lay down such a rule would be to grant impunity to the great majority of criminals. The purpose of an information is to institute and direct inquiry; and its just responsibilities are fully met, if it show *probable cause*. The magistrate commits for trial on a *reasonable suspicion*. The grand jury orders a man to stand, even for his life, on *ex parte* testimony. It is only by an authoritative investigation, that the evidence which unfolds the truth, can usually be discovered; and this investigation it is the province of Governments to undertake and to conduct on its own responsibility.—If no trial were ever ordered until absolute proof of guilt were first produced, and by some volunteer prosecutor, the courts might almost as well be abolished, and public justice dec ared at an end.

These principles seem obviously just; but they are not understood to be so conceded in practice, in some of the departments of Government. Some of the officers who are charged with the oversight of subordinates, do not take hints or ordinary information from citizens, as guides to their own observations and investigations. They require a responsible allegation and formal proof as the foundation of an inquiry.—They have been led to adopt this reserve probably in consequence of the great number of complaints due to ignorance or querulousness, or originating in personal feeling. These they may always expect; but these are not sufficient to justify them in repulsing the approaches of all citizens indiscriminately. They should, on the contrary, keep an open door for honest and well-meaning men, and receive with manifestations of thankfulness the communications which they may make for the good of the public service. An investigation which the Government may conduct without inconvenience, is often matter of personal fend, perhaps deadly quarrel, if avowedly based on a private accusation. Individuals will shrink from occupying such a position, if not from timidity, at least from that preference for quiet which most men feel. Especially will they do this when they are not personally possessed of proof adequate to the full establishment of their opinions. Officers who place obstacles in the way of receiving information as to the malversation of their subordinates, will find indeed that they escape the annoyance of frivolous complaints, but they will succeed also in giving license to the unworthy to do pretty much as the list.

Such impunity must operate very disadvantageously in a community circumstanced as is ours. An infinite number of public agents are scattered over the country many of them entrusted with the most delicate duties, where the observation of superiors is impossible, and where in consequence of the difficulty of detecting irregularities, there can be but little responsibility. In such cases, the public eye and ear, must be the principal witnesses and detectives. The observations of the citizens ought to be cordially invited, and their statements respectfully listened to and duly weighed. They must not be told to be silent unless they shall choose to volunteer as positive accuser and formal prosecutor, and thus give to a public matter the aspect and character of a private altercation. An officer has no right to thrust such an alternative upon a citizen; and its effect is as we have said, to secure license and impunity to offenders, even to such as excite the most open disgust.

Richmond Sentinel.

LATE NORTHERN ITEMS.

From late files of Northern papers we take the following extracts:

GEN. WHITING AMONG THE YANKEES.

A Yankee correspondent writing from Fort Fisher, has the following:

General Whiting and Col. Lamb, the officers in command of Fisher, were evidently selected for their tenacity and courage. They are both wounded, the General only seriously wounded, and Lamb also severely in hip, with a paralysis of the lower extremities. He is represented by his men as something of a lion. During the preparatory cannonading, his men say that he mounted one of the traverses and waved his sword in defiance at our men of war. At the same instant a shell struck the other officer, and took of his head. Lamb stooped, and taking off the fallen officer's sword, and waving—both high in the air, cried out, "Come on, you Yankee sons of b—s!" This exhibition of adolescent rage is told to show the courage of the colonel.

In conversation with one of the medical officers, General Whiting remarked that if he had had the control we should not have been permitted to throw up intrenchments across the peninsula. When he saw we were allowed to intrench he regarded the capture of the fort only a question of time. "I don't see what they were about," he said, referring to the troops of Gen. Bragg. Had my guns not been dismounted, you would not have taken the works. "But we came here to take it," said the doctor, "and should have done so any way, sooner or later. In seven hours we had a line of intrenchments across which would have enabled us to defy the whole of Gen. Lee's army."

Gen. Whiting, it is said, mounted the works when he saw the first flag unfurled on the second traverse of the fort, and rallying his men, attempted to snatch away the guidon from the hand of the Union soldier.—At that instant he received his wound, which disabled him for the remainder of the fight.

The prisoners will are about 1,900; sick and dead, 250, making about 2,200 all told.

AID AND COMFORT.—The mere love of bickering which has caused some papers to drift into a regular channel of abuse of our Confederate authorities is now bringing forth its legitimate fruit in the shape of comfort to the enemy. How could they but be gratified at the record some journals are pleased to make of affairs as they exist here in the Confederacy. If papers persist in their abuse of President Davis' Administration and continue to assert that the country is gliding along the "sloping descent to perdition," we may expect nothing more than to see a growth of confidence in the North, and a rapid revival of the war spirit.

These vapory effusions of inconsiderate scribblers are being hailed at the North as evidences of disruption among us, and already they are believing that our cause is weak

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.

WILMINGTON N. C., THURSDAY, FEB 16, 1865.

FOR THE SOLDIERS.

Something was brought to our attention yesterday, which if done at all—and we think it ought to be done—must be done at once. It is proposed to raise a fund to purchase provisions to be applied in improving the quantity and quality of the rations furnished to the troops in this district.

It is obvious that this matter, to effect anything, must be done *immediately*. There is not an hour to lose.—We think much can be done.

Between us and the enemy are troops of our own State and other States. These gallant men hold the trenches in bleak and exposed positions in this most inclement winter. They have claims upon us if any men have. If it is in our power to lessen their privations and increase their comforts, it seems to us that it is our interest as well as our duty to do so.

We do not repeat all the complaints of the querulous, for no doubt there would be some grumbling under any and all circumstances, but we all know that there is too much truth in the reports about the quantity and character of the rations given to the troops. Soldiers can neither be as contented, nor as well prepared to fight, when they are ill fed as when they are well-fed.

We trust that some active gentlemen will take this thing in hand and push it through. We have discharged part, at least of our duty, by bringing the matter before the public. We would suggest that the quickest and most promising plan would be for some gentlemen acting as a committee, to start the thing and keeping it going by personal application to such of our citizens as are able and willing to give.

To show that some, at least, of the gentlemen who suggested the movement yesterday, are in earnest about it, we may say that three of them subscribed the sums appended to their names respectively, as follows:

J. McCormick,	$500
S. B. & Co., Columbia,	500
A. Cameron, Charleston,	100

So the list is started. Who will take it and carry it around?

We are sorry to see that the question of recruiting negro soldiers for the army appears to be assuming the character of a party question. We cannot now afford to treat anything in that way. This thing, and indeed all other things, must stand upon their merits; there being two lights in which they are to be considered—first, in the light of principle, and second, in the light of policy. In regard to the policy of the measure there may be doubts. We have stated ours, but no opposition founded on mere policy need be either violent or uncompromising. The leading military minds of the country are decided in their approval of the measure.—They think it will work well, and they warn us that it is necessary. General Lee is known to favor it, and we know that in all military matters Gen. Lee's voice is potential, and Congress will hardly turn a deaf ear to his recommendations. In some form a bill for the employment of negro soldiers in the Confederate army is almost certain to pass. This being the case we can see no use in throwing impediments in its way, which can only have the effect of embarrassing its execution, and not of preventing its enactment. If the law is to be passed, and if its successful execution be of the importance to our cause that is alleged by some, it certainly deserves to have a fair chance, without being prejudiced in advance by virulent or factious opposition.

One thing is certain, and has so appeared to us from the first moment when this question was mooted:—What is done ought to be done quickly. It is a question that demands prompt decision, and energetic action.

Truly are we warned not to put our faith in princes, and well has it been added by some uninspired person—"nor in politicians."

The Federal Congress lately witnessed some scenes, and heard some declarations that must convince all of the character of too many, if not of all the political managers at the North.

Lincoln invites or at least agrees to an informal conference, which conference is held on board a boat in Hampton Roads. What that conference amounted to, and in what it resulted we all know. Lincoln's terms were absolute submission to an abolitionized government, constitution, laws, etc; to laws violative of all the rights of the States, and subversive of all those of persons and of property. He returns to Washington and reports that the Southern commissioners and the Southern people object to these *merciful* terms, and what next do we find? Why we find such blatant States Rights Democrats as Fernando Wood, Cox of Ohio and others, who have all along and bitterly denounced the usurpations of the Federal government, and expressed sympathy with the South in her struggle for constitutional rights, though not in her secession, we find these "peace men," these anti-fanatics, &c., taking the occasion of this last exhibition of Lincoln's unyielding temper and tyrannous disposition to desert their ostentatious defence of States Rights and Constitutional principles, and, in the words of the Northern telegrams, to "take the war path," which means that they made bitter blood and thunder speeches against the "rebels" and in favor of "crushing out the rebellion," and all that sort of thing, because the Southern people will not gladly embrace slavery and welcome confiscation; will not lay down their arms, and deliver up their officers with halters round their necks, that a few of them may be hung and the rest banished and beggared.

The whole United States seems, politically speaking, to be given over to the blackness of darkness. It is an abolition society on a large scale, and the Fernando Wood Democrats are the scaliest.

We have heard it surmised that possibly Lincoln may really have meant something by the Blair mission to Richmond, but that he was bullied and scared out of it by the attacks of old Wade, of Ohio, and the position assumed by the Republican members of both houses of the U. S. Congress.

There is some plausibility in this, and yet we think a little more, especially as he knew that the next Congress will be still more largely and fiercely fanatical than the present, and he could hope to receive no support from it in any conciliatory policy, even if he did from the present Congress.

Besides, Lincoln and Seward are perhaps more embittered against the Confederacy than any other two public men in the United States, since they are apt to regard the secession of the Southern States as personally affecting themselves, and coincident with their accession to power. They regard it, whether correctly or not, as a direct refusal to live under *them*, as being specially objectionable. Are *they* likely to be sincerely moderate?

To-morrow, Feb. 15th, will be the day fixed for enforcing Lincoln's new draft in the city of New York. He calls for 20,016 men from that city and county, and there would seem to be every indication that the call will be resisted. The *feeling* of opposition to the draft is certainly very strong, and the public authorities both of the State and the county, freely express their fears that this feeling will embody itself in action, taking the form of a dreadful riot. Efforts have been made to obtain a postponement of the draft or a reduction of the quota demanded, but so far without success.

Daily Journal, 14th.

FROM BELOW.

We learn, that active skirmishing was going on all day Saturday between our forces at Sugar Loaf, and those of the enemy below. Towards night they advanced in force, driving in our skirmishers and making three attacks upon our main line, all of which were handsomely repulsed, with considerable, we might say heavy, loss to the enemy. Our casualties were about twenty.

Finally the lines were resumed pretty nearly as before, and all remained quiet yesterday, with the exception of some shelling by the enemy's fleet.

On Saturday one of the monitors in the river threw some of her fifteen inch shells at Fort Anderson, with the effect of killing one and wounding another of our men.

The following persons, wounded in the above fight, were received at General Hospital No 4 on Sunday:

James Newman, Co E, 66th Regt N C T., leg amputated—Pactolus, N. C.

D. F. Jenkins, Co. E, 43d Regt N. C. T., contusion back, severe—Smith Grove, N. C.

W. J. Williams, Co. E, 27th Ga. Regt, fractured thigh—Red Oak, Ga.—*Daily Journal, last Monday*, 13th.

The following, from the Columbia *South Carolinian*, contains more definite and cheering information than anything else that has reached us this morning through the mails. The arrival of Beauregard relieves us from considerable anxiety in reference to the general conduct of the campaign. General Hardee, as we have elsewhere said, is a good corps commander, but is hardly believed to be the man to be at the head of affairs in South Carolina:

From the South Carolinian, Feb. 13th.

The appointment of General Hampton to the command of two such divisions as those of Generals Butler and Young is an earnest of success. He is once more at the head of the men he has so often led to victory on Virginia fields—men on whom both the country and himself can depend—and we may, therefore, look for a repetition here of the gallantry which has been bulletined from every battle in which they have had a place. The arrival of Beauregard, the thought that Hampton is in the saddle, the co-operation of Gen. Johnston, who, although for the present "behind the scenes," does not withhold his skill and experience, whenever needed, together with a score of other facts of an encouraging character, which should not be published, are events that may well give our people great joy.

LATEST FROM SHERMAN.

The latest we have from Sherman is the following which we cut from the Columbia *Guardian* of yesterday (Monday):—

From the Front.

In a cavalry engagem nt last Friday with Gen. Kilpatrick, near Aiken, G n. Wheeler achieved a considerable success, clearing and driving back the enemy five miles to their entrenchments.

Heavy skirmishing is going on at Orangeburg, the exact results of which we have not heard reported. If our troops should be compelled to retire from that point, we suppose they will take the line of the Congaree River to protect the positions of Lingsville and Columbia.

A portion of the force of the enemy, we do not know how large, crossed the railroad yesterday below Orangeburg C. H. This would appear to be a divergence from the direction they have hitherto pursued, and may indicate the purpose of crossing the Santee, and going to the eastern part of the State and thence into North Carolina, cutting the North Eastern Railroad at Florence. Rumors locate other parties on the North Edisto about Jones Bridge and near Knott's P. O. These, however, lack confirmation.

The cars yesterday proceeded no further down than Lonisville.

Louisville is on the Columbia Branch of the South Carolina Railroad, between Branchville and Kingsville, being thirteen miles East of, or below, Kingsville.—[Journal.]

THE "MISTAKE."

The more we think of it the more it puzzles us, and the less we understand how it could have happened.

Did anybody ever imagine the like? Mr. Trenholm, an experienced merchant, financier, and accountant, made a report upon the finances, based, we suppose, upon the figures he found in the Treasury Department, upon the administration of which he had just entered. He estimated the amount required to be raised for the support of the government at three hundred and sixty millions. That was in December. Well, two months elapse, and Mr. Trenholm reports a slight error in the footing up, amounting to the trifling sum of four hundred millions of dollars. We question if ever such a thing, on such a scale, happened since the world began. A mistake of four hundred millions is something gigantic—colossal, incomprehensible. If the thing was not go dreadfully serious we might say it was grand, magnificent, and so forth.

The first pleasing result of this deficit, for that is the way to put it, is that all our taxes have to be paid over again. Three hundred and sixty more millions have to be raised out of the people somehow. That, as all must see, will create a great demand for Confederate currency, and one would naturally suppose that the certainty of that demand would enhance its value. But it does no such thing. The fearfully bad management, or worse, that permits mistakes of four hundred millions, inflicts such a shock upon all confidence in the department in which such mistakes occur, as to more than neutralize the effect of cause which might otherwise tend to the appreciation of our treasury notes.

How this thing really occurred may come out sometime. We do not think that Mr. Memminger or Mr. Trenholm have taken the money, but we think there has been taking, and extensive taking, and taking all around. The government, that is, to say, the country, has been gouged by dishonest agents, or sacrified by official imbecility. The idea that such a thing as a mistake of four hundred millions could occur in the official figures of the Treasury Department without the implication of either imbecility or dishonesty would surely strike a plain man as being a flat impossibility. The man or men who would steal from their bleeding country in this her hour of trial and danger and depression would do almost anything. It really shocks one to think of such a thing.

A Member of the 23d Georgia Regiment sends a communication complaining of the failure recently to furnish adequate rations to the troops, and also to give them the six months pay due them. He blames the quartermasters (everybody hits *them* a dig.)

The communication is unaccompanied by any responsible name, or indeed by *any* name, and our rules prevent its publication, still, as we think the case a hard one, we make this reference to it. We do not know whose fault it is that soldiers in the trenches have not full rations, or at least fair rations. It may, at times be unavoidable, but when it does occur and could have been avoided by any possible effort, it is nothing short of an outrage. The matter of pay ought to have been attended to. Say there were four hundred thousand men to be paid at fourteen dollars per month, thirty-six millions would have paid off, and would now pay off all arrears for six months. Why the Confederate Government shrinks from that, while we are coolly told of a *slight miscalculation* of something like *four hundred millions*, is a matter that passes our feeble understanding.

The Charleston *Mercury* of Saturday announces a brief suspension of that paper, with a view to its temporary removal to another point. This is rendered necessary by the progress of military events, cutting it off from the mail facilities for distributing its paper to a large portion of its subscribers, while the lack of transportation renders its supply of paper precarious.

Hon. Thomas Bennett, Ex-Governor of South Carolina, died on the 30th ult. at Anderson Court House, in that State.

We have the second number of the *Key-stone*, a Masonic Monthly Magazine, published by Wm. B. Smith & Co., Raleigh, N. C., at $15 for six months. It appears to be a good number.

Railroad Conductors, passengers, and occasional dispatches give us all the information we can get of the progress of events in South Carolina, and the information thus received is frequently unreliable and always vague and unsatisfactory.

Perhaps our military chiefs may know something more than they are willing to give to the outside world, although, to tell the truth, we cannot see the object of any particular reticence in regard to the enemy's movements, if we have been able to fathom them. If there was a plausible reason for this while the enemy, cut off from his base, was wending his way through Georgia, we cannot see that there is any such reason now, while he is operating in South Carolina, in full connection with his base, and in full communication with his government.

Reports that Beauregard had whipped Sherman—that cannonading had been heard at Kingsville on Saturday, &c., &c., seem to us perfectly apocryphal.—Neither are we at all certain that Sherman's army, or any important part of it, is *en route* for Augusta.—There is another object before him, we think.

From the precautions said to have been taken, Sherman will have to keep up communications with his base at Savannah or Port Royal, and cannot operate with his whole force "in the front," so that we think he will be under the necessity of keeping his army well in hand, concentrated and ready for defence as well as offence.—This makes us doubt the stories told of his columns appearing at so many different and widely separated points. Such a diffusion of force would be dangerous in the presence of an active and skillful strategist like Beauregard or Lee, or above all, Stonewall Jackson. General Hardee is believed to be a brave soldier, a capital fighter and an able tactician, qualities essential to a corps commander, and going far to complete the requirements necessary to fill that position, but not filling all the conditions requisite for success in an independent command. A knowledge of strategy, or rather a genius for strategy—the power of combination—of divining the plans of the enemy and of concealing his own, are indispensable to a general entrusted with an independent command, and these qualities although capable of developement by study and experience must exist from the first as natural gifts and cannot be created by any study of laws, tactics or manœuvres. General Hardee is conceded to be an excellent corps commander, but we think the country is not so well assured of his capacity as the manager of an extended and critical campaign. We trust, however, that opportunity is only wanted for the display of the qualities of the great general, and that Hardee will yet take his place among our ablest campaigners. It is probable, however, that he will be relieved from this responsibility by the arrival of Gen. Beauregard.

A gentleman in feeble health told us this morning that to-day he was forty one years of age. He was born forty-one years ago, and had therefore travelled more than half his pilgrimage to the grave, even giving him the scriptural limit of three score years and ten.

These mile posts on the journey of life, although often celebrated with some little social observance, can hardly ever be otherwise than productive of a certain subdued melancholy in all save the very young. Each year carries us so much nearer to the grave. On each birth-day we look back with regret to those who have fallen by the wayside, and forward with misgivings to what the future may bring or take away. If this is so at all times, how much more is it so now, when nearly every household misses a member—when every mother almost sighs for the loss of those gone forever, or trembles for the fate of those who still are left.

"To-day I am forty-one, and in Wilmington" said the sick man; "where will I be on my forty-second birth-day?"

Who knows that? Who knows what a day or an hour may bring forth? We, certainly do not pretend to say.

When a man is born, he certainly don't know much, nor would it do him much good if he did. Certainly if there were a store-house or repository of souls waiting for bodies, and free to choose their own time for entering upon the stage of this life, a great many now figuring in the Confederacy and in the United States, would, if gifted with prescience, have postponed being born until the troubles were over and things had settled down. Some, we think, would not. It would have pleased them to spring into the arena, where the very danger and doubtfulness of the contest would give a zest to the struggle. But the sick, the feeble, the destitute or the bereaved may well be excused for wishing that their birth had happened sooner or later by long years;—that *this* cup, since it must come, had been permitted to pass from their lips.

Daily Journal, 14th.

☞ A meeting of the citizens of Cumberland and Harnet counties, is advertised to take place at Fayetteville, to morrow, Feb. 16th, for the purpose of expressing their opinion in reference to the present state of the country.

For the Journal.

SUGAR LOAF, N. C.,
19th Geo. Regt., Feb. 10th, 1865.

Editors Journal:—

I have the pleasure of laying before the public, a letter from E. M. Broyles, Aid-de-Camp to Gov. Brown, of Georgia, a plain and spirited denial of all charges of "infidelity" to our cause as alledged by many to the Governor. I deem it my duty to do so both in justice to Gov. Brown, and to relieve all false impressions detrimental to the cause that may be in the minds of others. There is but one course left us to independence—*it is war*. Let no one so far forget the wrongs of the past, the honors due both dead and living, as to attempt to purchase peace at the price of *submission*—which, in fact, would be no peace, but the inauguration of a worse war than the present. Hoping that you will insert the enclosed letter in your worthy columns,

I am with great respect,
Your obd't serv't,
J. A. R.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
MILLEDGEVILLE, GA.,
Jan. 31st, 1865.

Capt. J. A. Richardson
Co. C, 19th Reg. Ga. Vols.,
Wilmington, N. C.:

Sir: The Governor being absent, I feel it my duty, at once, in reply to your letter of the 23rd inst., to deny the charge of infidelity to our cause, which you say is in circulation against Gov. Brown. There is no man in the Confederacy truer than he. He is the leading advocate of State rights and constitutional liberty in our nation. He has invariably been consistent in his views on those great questions. No changes of circumstances or place have wrought any change in him. How strange then that he should be thought willing to return to the old government, which mocks at State rights as an idle tale and trample upon the constitution as a vile thing, a "league with hell!" If he has opposed, as wrong in principle, some of the measures of the Confederate government, as tending towards despotism, would he not still more resist the tyranny of the accursed foe, who, under the hypocritical pretense of preserving the Union and inforcing the laws, have buried the Union of our fathers in a sleepless grave and trampled all laws human and divine?

Upon my own authority, therefore, from my knowledge of him and from his own often repeated declarations, public and private, I beg to assure you that Gov. Brown is opposed to re-construction in any shape or form, and under all circumstances.

The sovereignty of the States and the independence of the Confederacy are alike dear to him and receive equally his earnest and untiring devotion. Without the former, he cares little for the latter. He regards State sovereignty as indeed the palladium of all our political rights and of Republican institutions.

You speak of the martyred dead. It is a glorious band! Gov. Brown alike with all the true and good, would revolt at the base idea of shaking hands with their murderers over their housed graves.

Very respectfully,
E. M. BROYLES,
Aid-de-Camp to Governor of Georgia.

For the Journal.

Messrs. Editors:—Please allow a Senior Reserve, who has been in service since August last, a small space in your columns for the purpose of inquiring why it is that the Senior Reserves have as yet received no clothes, and whether they are to get any at all, and if so when? Many of them are destitute—all of them, being "Seniors," as their name implies, feel the want of proper clothing most severely, and being away from home have not the opportunity, even if they possessed the means to procure it.

They have not yet been paid off, and the little amount due them would be highly acceptable and useful.

I make these inquiries and statements with no desire of finding fault with, or attaching blame to any particular person. I simply wish to bring the matter to the attention of the proper authorities in the hope that the wants of the "Senior Reserves" may be supplied, as far as possible, and their sufferings alleviated. I know that an early and favorable response would be highly acceptable to many destitute

SENIOR RESERVES.

For the Journal.

GOLD FOR THE ARMY.

CAMP NEAR WILMINGTON,
Feb. 13th, 1865.

Gentlemen:—As great efforts are now being made to inspirit the people, permit me to suggest a plan that will accomplish the object: Pay the army for one or two months in gold and silver, and put them on an equality with the farmers, speculators, magistrates, militia officers, constables, &c., who are at home, enjoying all the luxuries of the country, and accumulating fortunes, and I will guarantee it will do more towards our independence than all the legislation for the last two years. The purse of the soldier coming in contact with the above class at home, is so insignificant, that he is avoided, for fear he will trouble them by an application to purchase a bushel of meal or gallon of molasses, as it will take several months' pay of the private and nearly one months' pay of an officer to make the purchase. Farmers withhold their surplus, because they do not appreciate Confederate money. Most of the families of privates and officers are living on the most scanty charity, and are compelled to dispose of their furniture and wearing apparel for mere subsistence. We think a great deal and say but little. We have the most patriotic army in the world, it being an unpaid one

SOLDIER.

JANUARY 16, 1865.

Young Ladies Knitting Society at Cross-Roads, Columbus County.

Mrs. Rev. Haynes Lennon, 18 pairs socks and one pair gloves; Miss Florenna A. Lennon, 11 pairs socks; Miss Lucinda P. Lennon, 11 pairs socks; Mrs. Wm. M. Baldwin, half pound prepared thread; Miss Josephine M. High, 8 pairs socks; Miss Mary Lennon, 2 pairs socks; Miss Sallie B Lennon, one pair socks; Miss Ann R. Lennon, one pair socks; Mrs. Milla Howell, one pair socks; Mrs. Caswell Porter, one pair socks; Miss Lucinda A. Storm, one pair socks.

Miss Florenna A. Lennon, President.
Miss Lucinda P. Lennon, Vice-President.
Miss Sallie B. Lennon, Secretary.
Miss Frances M. Lennon, Treasurer.

CAMP CLINGMAN'S BRIGADE,
Near Sugar Loaf, January 22, 1865.

Received Jan. 22nd, 1865, the above enumerated articles for which, in behalf of the soldiers to whom they were distributed, I return my grateful acknowledgments and thanks.

R. C. ROCKWELL,
Capt. and A. Q. M., Clingman's Brigade.

IN THE TRENCHES,
Below Wilmington, Feb. 10th, 1865.

Mr. Fulton:—

For the information of the friends and relatives, please publish the following list of prisoners captured from my Company, by the enemy, on the 19th January, near Sugar Loaf:

Lieut. F Foy, Sergt. James Howland and Corporal Koonce, Corpls. Benj Brown, Haywood White, H Hardy; Privates Ivey Andrews, Edward Field, Reuben Hood, Samuel King, Job Metts, James Pollock, Owen Sylivant, Simon Simons, Moses Gaiding, Levi Whaley, C C Smith, John E Gardling.

W. J. RASBERRY,
Capt. Co. F, 66th Reg. N. C. T.

For the Journal.

WAYSIDE HOSPITAL No. 5,
February 13th, 1865.

Miss Bue requests to inform her liberal and patriotic friends residing here and elsewhere, that she is still quite indisposed, suffering with cold and sore throat. Expecting to leave for a warmer climate before the port was closed she disposed of all delicacies of every kind, and is now entirely without. She will be pleased to receive anything calculated for a sick person, and will pay for the same.

The citizens here, and especially the ladies, have established a claim to the Confederacy's grateful remembrance for their patriotism and attention to suffering humanity.—The sick and wounded soldiers have reason to remember the liberality and kindness of the Wilmingtonians. Any kindness from the same source will be duly appreciated, and rewarded by Him who holds the destinies of nations in His hands.

Let our brave soldiers nobly discharge their duties in the future as they have in every past battle. Let no man think of deserting his post of duty because he is sad. Patriotism and determination will, with the blessings of God, establish liberty on honorable terms. Death comes but once to all. Then how can man die better than facing fearful odds for the ashes of his fathers and the temple of his God? Soldiers, remember that no nation or people can be conquered that determines to be free. The fate of the country and liberty for posterity to enjoy depends on one united effort to resist the enemy at every point.

SOLDIER'S FRIEND.

From the Kinston Correspondence of the Goldsboro' State Journal.

KINSTON, Feb. 13, 1865.

Editor State Journal:—

I have just conversed with a reliable gentleman who came in from the front yesterday. He informs me that he had an interview with a lady who was within the enemy's camp last Thursday, and from what she could learn there, it is her opinion that the Yankees are preparing to move in force against Weldon by the Roanoke, and at the same time will make a feint in this direction.

The Yankees have reinforced some along the coast but not half as heavy as first reported.

Ten gunboats are said to be at Newbern.

There seems to be no doubt about the landing of five locomotives and rail road iron, &c., at Morehead City.

The enemy made a raid last week into Jones county, on the south side of Trent river, and destroyed and carried off all the provisions belonging to the people in that section they could possibly lay their polluted hands upon.

From the Columbia South Carolinian.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL JOHN H. WINDER.

In our issue of day before yesterday, we announced the sudden death of this officer, and now append a brief sketch of his military life. The deceased was a son of Maj. Gen. Wm. H. Winder of Md., who commanded troops of that State in the war of 1812. He was born in Somerset county, Md., Feb., 1800. At the age of sixteen he entered West Point, from which he graduated with enviable distinction in 1820, and was commissioned as lieutenant in the United States army and entered at once upon frontier service, where he continued during the Florida war, earning therein the promotion to and rank of captain in the first regiment of United States artillery, with which he was connected at the breaking out of the Mexican war, to which field of action his command was immediately transferred.—Here his true soldierly qualities and gallantry won him such distinction that on the battle field of Churubusco he was honored with promotion to the rank of major. His participation (in this new and nobly won position) in the taking of the city of Mexico, the last act of that bloody drama, again crowned him with honor, as he was there rewarded with a lieutenant-colonel's commission by Gen. Scott. Subsequently the rank of colonel was bestowed upon him as a recognition of his merits.

At the period of the commencement of the present war he was on a brief visit to his family, in the city of Baltimore, and on the 20th of April, 1861, the day succeeding the successful attack upon Massachusetts troops in that city, he forwarded his resignation as an officer of the U. S. army to Washington, and tendered his services to the Confederacy. The rank of brigadier general was promptly conferred upon him by President Davis, he having, while Secretary of War of the U. States, had full opportunity of acquainting himself with the capacities and fitness of the lamented deceased for high position and important trusts, as evidenced in his being immediately assigned to the command of the department of Henrico, embracing the city of Richmond and ten miles surrounding.

In July, 1864, he was transferred to the command of Confederate States prison camps in the State of Georgia, and a short time since was appointed commissary general of prisons, which embraced the immediate command of all prisons East of the Mississippi, which position he held at the time of his death.

In every position in which he has been placed his official conduct has been marked by strict probity, energy and promptness, and that kind consideration towards all whose official relations made them subordinate to him, which unmistakably attested a noble and genial nature; while in private life, as husband, father and true friend, his memory can never cease to be sincerely cherished.

He leaves in the service of the Confederacy two sons, Capt. W. S. Winder and Capt. John Winder, and was the cousin of Brig. Gen. Charles Winder, who was killed while leading the old Stonewall brigade at the battle of Cedar Run, and also of Col. Edward Winder, at present a commander in the Confederate States Navy.

Gen. Hood.—We learn from the Augusta Chronicle of the 1st, that Gen. Hood arrived in that city on the previous day, and the same night, in response to the calls of a large assemblage of citizens, made a short, pungent, pithy speech, full of that patriotic fire which he has displayed on so many fields. The speech was eloquent and impressive, combining the cannon shot and sabre stroke, and elicited the hearty applause of the crowd. The battle scarred hero was hopeful and confident.

Exchange of Prisoners.

The subject of the exchange of prisoners of war held by both governments, is again prominently before the two sections, this time with a fair prospect of satisfactory results. We are doubtless indebted for this to the unceasing efforts of Col. Ould, on the part of the Confederacy, and Lt. Col J. E. Mulford, the Yankee Agent of Exchange. The number of Confederates in the hands of the enemy, if reduced to privates, will not exceed 40,000, and it is believed we have a larger number of Yankees in the different prisons South. In the recent exchange at Savannah and Charleston, we delivered to the Federal agent over 11,000; and a large number have since been sent down the James. In this transaction we believe they are still largely in our debt, our Commissioners having magnanimously trusted them for the equivalents.

It is impossible to estimate the happy effects which a general exchange of prisoners now would ensure.—Those who have not suffered the horrors of confinement under a Yankee guard cannot appreciate the poignant sorrows of the restraint. The mere confinement of the body within prescribed limits is endurable; but when that confinement is associated with the most brutal insult, cruel treatment, and the sum of annoyances dictated by the meanest instincts of the Yankee race, the soul is crushed, the spirits broken, and the wonder is that our prisoners survive it at all.

The delivery of our suffering braves from their long and wearying captivity will gladden the faces around many a fireside and infuse joy and new life into thousands of saddened hearts. The mourning mother, the sorrowing and heart-broken wife and the bereaved daughter, of every city, town and village, will have cause for rejoicing in the fact of their loved ones being again at liberty, free from the most refined torture that can be inflicted upon the noble spirit.

The return of our prisoners at this time would also be most beneficial in a military point of view. Nor is it less a matter of policy with the enemy. They are suffering from a lack of men to carry out the provisions of their stupendous contract, and the draft system does not work satisfactorily with them.

We sincerely trust that if the efforts now being made to effect a full clearing-out of prisoners be successful, measures will follow to exchange or parole, immediately after capture, all prisoners taken on either side.

Columbia Guardian.

SIEGE MATTERS.—FIVE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-NINTH DAY.

A force of the enemy, believed to be between three and four thousand strong, under cover of their gunboats, made a landing at Grimball's place, on James Island, about 8 o'clock yesterday morning. A brisk fight ensued with our pickets, the latter being finally driven in to our first line of works. Major Manigault is reported to have been killed in the skirmishing, but some doubt is expressed as to the correctness of the report.

The enemy at last accounts, were drawn up in line of battle and advancing slowly, but no general fight had taken place.

Active demonstrations have also been made along our lines on the Saltkehatchie. In an attack there yesterday morning, the enemy were easily repulsed. Another force advanced upon the Charleston road, near Blue House, and opened with artillery, but made no impression on our lines. Everything was quiet at Combahee Ferry.—*Chas Mercury*, 11th inst.

FOREIGN ITEMS.

The breach between the Papal Government and the Prussian Minister at Rome is widening.

It is rumored that an asylum for decayed literary men is about to be founded near Paris by the Emperor.

Martial law has been proclaimed in eighteen districts of Austria, once provinces of Friuli and Treviso. Sentinels and patrols received orders to fire upon all assemblages which summoned to disperse fail to give an instant obedience.

Accounts from Mecklenburg, Germany, state that an emigration en masse is going on from the Duchy to America and that the landholders are looking forward with dismay to the moment when they will have no hands to cultivate their estates.

The substitution of iron for wood in the construction of ships is going forward with such rapid strides in the United Kingdom, that in some of the old ship-yards a timber ship is scarcely ever seen. It is a fact worthy of observation that on the Clyde only two wooden ships have been built within the past year, out of an aggregate of 819 vessels launched there, or still in process of construction.

The Piedmont Lines.—The Salisbury *Watchman* of the 1st says:

It is confirmed that the tories are in some force at Piedmont Springs in Burke county, but have made no advance. Reports as to their numbers are conflicting.

On the same subject the Statesville *Express* says:

We understand that all the Classes of the Home Guard are ordered to report at once at Morganton to meet an anticipated attack from a body of Kirk's raiders. During last week the force stationed at Piedmont Springs were surrounded by about three hundred men, supposed to belong to the same command, and our men were compelled to fall back. Such is the news from the Western front.

The Sense of Beauty.—Very wonderful is it that the proportionate vibrations of the ear, and the harmonic ratio of sculptured marble, should give so keen a sense of delight to the soul's inner eye; but how much more wonderful that unconsciously in the brain of the man of genius, in the mysterious molecular action of the ultimate vesicles of the nervous tissue, there should be revolved, without any outward agencies, these ratios of space and time which working on the nerves and muscles of voice and hand, make themselves heard and seen in far off lands and far-off times, filling the world to its remotest bounds with forms of beauty and tones of melody that never die—miraculously preserved in tombs of Thebes; buried, but disinterred, in palaces of Ninevah; lingering among the oleanders of Licia; shining, though not with "original brightness," on the Acropolis of Athens; and thrilling through the vaults of cathedrals; requiems of Mazart, demi gods of Phidias, sibyls of Michael Angelo, Madonnas of Raphael, heavenly cadences of Miston—all answerings of the internal great idea, emenations from those inaccessible cells where the vital force, with an inspiration and energy past man's understanding, plies her mysterious work! Thence issuing, these wonders of form and sound are caught by the ears and eyes of other men, pressed to their hearts, birthed with their gods, mingled with the blessed sanctities of their homes, and handed down to distant ages, so that the thought and feeling of one mind may become the beauty and the joy of all men forever.—*Symonds.*

A Valuable Receipt.—The editor of the Fayetteville Telegraph gives the following receipt, and if he does not vouch for its excellence we do:

To Make Persimmon Brandy.—We recommend the following as a most excellent recipe for making this healthy and invigorating beverage. Take one barrel of corn, and *one* persimmon. Eat the persimmon and put the corn through the usual process of distillation, and you have a superior article of persimmon brandy. By thus economising your persimmons, one tree will furnish enough material for several hundred barrels. It will add to the reputation of the manufacturer to label his barrels with a representation of a ripe persimmon. We have seen several thus *brandied*, during the past season, and although they sometimes exhaled a *certi*-founded bad odor, the great mass of the people "took to" them as gently as a *sucking* calf.

A Battle field Incident.—A letter written in speaking of the grand charge of the Missouri brigade at the battle of Franklin, says:

"In a very few minutes, General Cockrill returned, riding his wearied horse, and severely wounded in three places. The horse of Col Gates, of his brigade, which had so often followed General Cockrill's brigade over many a weary mile, turned, and by instinct followed him from the field also; the rider, shot through both arms, being unable to guide him. I shall never forget the steady, calm gaze of this old hero of many a battle-field, as he sat upon his horse erect as a statue, his paralyzed arms hanging to his side. I assisted him from his horse, and he was borne from the battle-field.

It is told of General Zachary Taylor, that when Major Bliss brought him Santa Anna's dispatch, proposing that the American army should surrender without further ceremony, the General, who, at that moment was busy writing a private letter on his cannon chest, replied, "Tell him to go to ——!" naming a place seldom mentioned, except by hard swearers and clergymen. "But," remonstrated the gallant major, "that does not strike me as appropriate language to use in a case of this sort—it is a formal, official dispatch, and requires, I suppose, a written answer." "Tell him to go to ——!" reiterated the General calmly. "Put it in proper diplomatic phrase, and all that sort of thing, according to your own taste, but 'that' is my answer."

Boys.—It is astonishing, says the Register, to see how quickly they learn to monkey all that is repulsive in their seniors. They swear with all the refined gusto of a cockney. They shape their oaths after the most approved twang. They gamble like any blackleg—"tag" for marbles, buttons or dollars; they talk of the war and criticise the movements of our greatest Generals with the same impudence that characterizes an editor or any other man; they talk of the women, of bar-rooms, and all that kind of a thing with almost the *sang froid* of a libertine. In short, the boy is a peculiar institution, and the most peculiar portion of the institution may be found about the streets of Augusta.

CAPTIONS

Of the Laws and Resolutions, passed by the General Assembly of North Carolina, at its last Session.

1. An act to increase the efficiency of the Home Guard organization.
2. An act to authorize the magistrates of Alamance county to levy a tax for the support of the families of soldiers.
3. An act to authorize the sheriff of Surry county to collect arrearages of taxes.
4. An act to incorporate the Big Falls Toll Bridge company.
5. An act to amend the charter of the Pittsboro' and Haywood plankroad company.
6. An act to incorporate the Haw River Toll Bridge company.
7. An act to authorize an increase of the capital of the Mocksock Mining and Manufacturing company.
8. An act to incorporate the Conservative Publishing company.
9. An act to enlarge the chartered privileges of the Trustees of the Yadkin College, in the county of Davidson.
10. An act for draining swamp lands.
11. An act in reference to the town of Kinston.
12. An act for the relief of such persons as may suffer from the burning of the Court-house and records of Buncombe county.
13. An act to extend the time for perfecting titles to entries of lands. [Extends the time to February 3d, 1865.]
14. An act to extend the time for perfecting titles to lands hereto ore entered. [Extends the time to January 1st, 1867.]
15. An act to amend the Revenue law. [Reduces the tax on private incorporations incorporated by special act, from $1,000 to $500.
16. An act to increase the penalty for failing to work on public roads, and to provide for the collection of the same. [Penalty $10, to be collected on warrant before any Justice of the Peace.]
17. An act in relation to Cherokee lands.
18. An act to give jurisdiction to the Superiour Court of Wilson county over crimes committed within the enemies' lines.
19. An act to amend the charter of the town of Salisbury.
20. An act to authorize the widening of the guage of the Piedmont road.
21. An act in regard to Justices of the Peace in the county of Pasquotank.
22. An act to restore jury trials in certain civil cases in the Court of Pleas and Quarter sessions of Chatham county.
23. An act to increase the power of the commissioners of the town of Greensboro'.
24. An act to prevent persons from placing obstructions in the North-east branch of the Cape Fear River.
25. An act in relation to the delivery and execution of process in Jones county.
26. An act for the relief of the sheriff of Beaufort.
27. An act concerning roads.
28. An act to change the name of the "North Carolina Express company, to the "People's Express Company."
29. An act to authorize the county court of Surry to elect Wardens of the poor.
30. An act to prevent obstructions to the passage of fish up Newbegun creek.
31. An act concerning Injunctions.
32. An act to exempt discharged soldiers from Home Guard duty.
33. An act to allow fifteen magistrates of Halifax county to transact county business.
34. An act to re-arrange the public offices in the Capitol. [Give the Geological room to the Comptroller, and the Comptroller's present room to the Treasurer. Donates the Geological and other specimens to the University.
35. An act concerning salaries and fees. [Gives the following for the year 1865: Governor $15,000; a Counselor of State $40 per day when engaged in public business, and 30 cents per mile to and from his home; Judges $7,000 each; Treasurer $7,500; chief clerk to the Treasurer $3,500; second clerk $2,500; Secretary of State $1,500, and four times the fees heretofore allowed; Comptroller $3,000, and his clerk $2,500; Governor's private secretary $2,500, and quadruple fees; Supreme Court Reporter $1,500; Clerk to the Supreme Court $1,500, and quadruple fees; Marshal $15 per day while attending the courts; Common and superior Court Clerks, Sheriffs, &c., quadruple fees; to salt commissioner $3,000 and travelling expenses; Surgeon General the pay of a Brigadier and travelling expenses; State Auditor $1,500; his 1st clerk $3,000; his 2d clerk $2,500; Superintendent of Common Schools $2,500; Keeper of the Capitol $1,500; Adjutant General the pay of a major General; Commissioners of the Sinking Fund and their clerk each $50 per day while engaged in public business.
36. An act to prevent obstructions in the Yadkin River.

RESOLUTIONS.

1. A resolution in regard to slaves at work on fortifications near Wilmington. [Provides for their return to their masters.]
2. A resolution concerning the sheriff of Davie county. [Corrects a mistake in a former law.]
3. A resolution in favor of S. D. Davis, sheriff of Jackson county.
4. A resolution in favor of J. M. Towles. [To issue a duplicate certificate for one lost.]
5. A resolution to pay Drury King for acting as Doorkeeper.
6. A resolution to allow the Clerks $300 each for copying their journals.
7. Resolutions in favor of the Old Dominion Trading company.

n good. We believe that the Emperor Napoleon
d hazard a general war rather than see Maximilian
back to Europe.

ell, what has Spain to lose? The "Gem of the
lles," Cuba. If not seized by the United States,
uld share the fate of this Confederacy conquered.
e or here, there would be no slavery, and it is not
sary to say that here and there the negro, under
ol is a source of wealth—to New England itself,
is trying to bite the hand that has fed it, and
s wealthy and, of course, according to its instinct,
t. Emancipation in this country would be equi-
nt to emancipation in Cuba, and that would be to
e Cuba as unproductive as Jamaica, which is hard
worth owning. The dry bones of her past are be-
st rate power. She is assuming the vigor of the
restored to life. She is assuming the vigor of the
ester European powers. She is taking on her the
gress of the age of the moving world—beginning to
cover the nature of industry and merchandise—has
appreciation of the value of railroads, and steam en
es, and all that kind of prog ess. Can any one sup
se that she does not see the present value of Cuba to
, and how little value it would be if the philanthro-
s of New England were to have the manipulation of
Cuba, in the hands of a wise power, is worth more
n ten times its area of soil in any part of the world.
is a gem, which no people would give away, or allow
the stolen away, or its value to be lost by the so call-
philanthropy of any fanatical race.

So that one sees why she must take a profound in-
est in the ambitious purposes of New England to
uer this Confederacy. The value of Cuba to
depends on the independence of this Confedera-
. Without that, like Canada, it were not worth
ey.

And thus it seems to follow that each of these pow-
s has something to gain by the success of our cause
—England the weakening of a commercial rival, and as
a consumer of cotton; France, as her "honor" is in-
ested in Mexico; and Spain, as having at hazard the
ure of her dominions which is the very jewel in her
own—without which she would have been bankrupt

in these rumors of European
ns which one might add to, if it
ssary. On the whole, then, the rumors are not
ouraging. If they should only cheer and not render
ent, for, if Lincoln's programme of arms be suc-
ful, it will be conquered even by the 4th of March,
is trying to bite the hand that has fed it, and
wealthy and, of course, according to its instinct,
t. Emancipation in this country would be equi-
nt to emancipation in Cuba, and that would be to
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ested in Mexico; and Spain, as having at hazard the
ure of her dominions which is the very jewel in her
own—without which she would have been bankrupt

Richmond Sentinel of Friday, gives the follow-
ort of a speech delivered in Richmond, last
ay, by Hon. R. M. T. Hunter, one of the
s appointed to confer with Lincoln:

HON. R. M. T. HUNTER'S SPEECH.

Mr. Hunter, on taking the chair, explained, in a speech
ief, the object and purpose for which the meet
was called. The most momentous issues are
ding that ever presaged the solicitude of any
ple. Our firesides, our social system and
ty, our rights of life, liberty and property
ll at stake. God grant us the
dom, and all that energy that our situation re-

Mr. Hunter, for the w
ars, and for the blood which
ed. We have contended
ment. This ought to have
ld, for it was American
ed together in the days of the Revolution,
ed by education and tradition they had been
ed to respect it. They ought to have united with
in maintaining it; but instead of that
ey have set upon it and upon us.

said Mr. Hunter, to such war as that which
ow carried on against us. The Thirty Years' war, the fury and bar-
ism of which has been proverbial, were worthy of
objects which it contemplated.

proceeded to notice the legislation of the
ress in relation to the people of the
vernment in relation to the passport system,
the exemption laws, the exemption
, which were wanted said Mr. H., to
ify which is exhibited towards us, it is
ed, to enter into negotiations with the
ment of the United States governments. With
the speech in this place, but with a copy
ch he delivered seven and ten months ago.
ing between seven and ten months of pro-
ess, terms will enter into no agreement.
were terms, as they say we are; no great
ers were ever settled without negotiations. The
was ever settled without negotiations. The
ress commissioners hither authorized to con-
with any Government or with individuals, and
ed to be "rebels;" yet,
commissioners hither authorized to con-
with any Government or with individuals, and
ed to be "rebels;" yet,
armies of our country, by a series of victories,
ed the part of duty and of wis-
a way calculated to extend liberal terms
ing their power, to extend liberal terms
ed to them, and to make them contented
them to their sway and make them contented

President of the United States had proposed nothing
he did nothing and offered nothing to soothe
ce or mitigate the severities of submission. It
that he could have supposed peace attaina-
with such a armed force as the Confede-
in the field. He required that we should con-
rebels, and be responsible for the blood
has been shed, to submit without condition; to sub-
which our property is declared confiscated
which our property is declared confiscated
. He promised, indeed, that he
the exercise of the pardoning
a people, accustomed to be free con-
their security, at
under the guaranty of law?—
Never!

the Government to which they were thus required to
, understandingly. It was not promised that they
even have a voice. It was distinctly left uncertain
they should be allowed any representation. Pres-
Lincoln had told our Commissioners—had told him
that he would see elect Representatives and
them to the Washington Congress, he, President Lin-
would be in favor of receiving them, but he was only
one man, and whether or not they would be received was

the indictment held out to us—such the propo-
ion.

it was then proceeded to notice some of the further
ns. Mr. Hunter then proceeded to notice the terms of
render or surrender to the Washing-
ernment. More than three millions of slaves, worth
ve hundred millions of dollars, would
to be turned loose as idlers and vagabonds upon our
; it was not necessary to explain the evils of
. It was not for us to make them useful or correct
. Nor would it be allowed to us to regu-
the relations between the races. The United States Congress is to have
power to regulate these questions, and would be interfering between the white and the black; and
any interference would be in the hands of those
who, for one generation at least, would be extremely hos-
tile to the Southern agitations of the present times, in-
fected with the Northern fanaticism, was intol rable to
the South. If Northern agitations of past

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.

WILMINGTON, N. C., SATURDAY, FEB. 11, 1865.

SHERMAN.

Sherman's force has been set down by excited parties at not less than seventy-five thousand to eighty thousand men. This we believe to be an exaggeration.—We do not think that Sherman arrived at Savannah with more than forty thousand men of all arms, and we do not think that he has since received reinforcements sufficient to do more than supply the garrisons that he must leave at Savannah and other points, even if he has received that many.

His movements are enveloped in doubt, and some little time must elapse before they can be fully developed. If some reports we have heard as though coming from Charleston be true, then the authorities there expect to experience the brunt of attack at an early day.—But mere reports are so strangely confused and mixed up that there is little safety in placing any reliance upon them. There can be little doubt of the great desire felt by the enemy to "hold, occupy and possess" the forts and public positions in Charleston as well as to subject that "cradle of sedition" to their power; nor is it at all unlikely that they may be disposed to defer for a time other schemes of more direct military consequence, in order to turn aside to Charleston; but whether disposed or not, we may be sure that Sherman will not be apt to sacrifice any substantial point of his campaign to the gratification of mere feeling. He is fully persuaded in his own mind that Charleston must eventually be his, and that therefore he can afford to bide his time. Unless, therefore, an attack upon Charleston coincides with his other plans, it will not now be made. Whether it does or does not, we cannot say.—After all, Charleston is only on a branch line. Columbia is more likely to attract immediate attention, and to receive unpleasant evidences of it, as being on the main line. Our authorities at Richmond do not seem to anticipate any permanent section of the lines of communication, or, if they do, do not appear to attach any great importance to such an event. At any rate there appears to be no idea entertained of the evacuation of Richmond, *or of Lee's* falling back from Virginia, as had been anticipated as consequent upon the possession of the South Carolina Road by the enemy.

PUBLIC MEETINGS are still the order of the day in Richmond. We cannot but look with approval upon any agency calculated to arouse the spirit of the Confederate people from the depression under which it has labored for some time past, and we think that this agency is well calculated to produce this effect, or at least to aid in producing it. Upon the press, now comparatively feeble in number, and laboring under the most painful disadvantages, has for a long time been cast the exclusive burden of strengthening the public faith, cheering the public mind and energising the public effort: and with few exceptions the press has done its part with fidelity, and not without a fair share of ability. But it now needs that the spoken word should be added to the written line—That man should speak to his fellow men and should meet them face to face. Why, who ever saw even a petty political squabble in which the voice of the orator was unheard. Shall it be silent now when the destinies of a great people hang trembling in the balance?

With the spirit of 1861 would rapidly revive the strength and the confidence of 1861. Depression is the disease under which our people are now laboring and suffering. It is that by which our safety and our independence are threatened. Let our leaders, our legislators "speak to the people" whether in the army or out of it. Let us emulate the self sacrificing spirit of '61, and all will speedily improve and we will once more come out into the sunshine.

FIRE.

The fire just before day this morning, occurred on a lot at the corner of Fifth and Ann Streets, belonging to Wm. N. Peden, Esq., but occupied by O. G. Parsley, Esq. It burned a stable and carriage house belonging to Mr. Peden, and a carriage, buggy, cart, harness, saddle and bridles, 50 bushels corn and 1000 pounds fodder belonging to Mr. Parsley.

Mr. Peden's loss must be some $2500 to $3000, as we do not suppose the buildings could now be replaced for a less sum. Mr. Parsley estimates his loss at from $5,000 to $10,000, probably nearer the latter sum.—Mr. Parsley suspects incendiarism and offers a reward of $1,000 for the detection of the perpetrator.

THE Court House of Buncombe County, at Asheville, with all the records and public papers of the County, was totally destroyed by fire on Saturday the 28th ult. The fire was arrested before it reached any other building.—Sundry military prisoners confined in the Court House were removed to a place of safety. The Court House was a fine building and the loss is heavy.

General Wade Hampton has been assigned to the command of Butler's and Young's Divisions of Cavalry, attached to Hardee's Department.

Governor Brown, of Georgia, has summoned the Legislature of that State to meet in the city of Macon on the 15th instant.

General J. Q. A. Gillmore has superseded Foster in command of the Yankee "Department of the South."

RESPONSIBILITY OF GENERALS.

In the days of the French Convention, when a General lost a battle, the loss of his head was soon to follow. This unreasoning but impartial justice no doubt cost the French Republic some good Generals, but it adorned her history with many triumphs. The vainest of incapables would hesitate to accept a command in which disaster would extinguish his ambition in blood; and presumptuous mediocrity would avoid a path bounded by the guillotine. The road to fame and to glory was open only to confident genius at a time when misfortune and incapacity were equally fatal. Perhaps the French Convention carried their retributive experiment too far. It was certainly not a way to improve a General to cut off his head; nor was there strict justice in so severely punishing a man for disasters which no human forecast or skill could have averted. But, after all, a disaster is a disaster, from whatever cause it originates; and as to consequences, it is just as bad to be unlucky as to be criminal. The guillotine had the effect of saving the French armies from presumptuous and incapable commanders; and this was an indisputable benefit. If, on the other hand, the Convention, in the latitude of its indulgence had amiably overlooked defeat and recompensed every surrender by promoting its author, France might have been overrun and conquered by the allied armies in one campaign. It seems that only this Confederacy can stand up against this peculiar system which consists in carefully repressing the usefulness of fortunate and skillful officers and in rewarding the failure of the incapable and unlucky. The carelessness with which we have regarded defeat, the charity we have so lavishly squandered on our unsuccessful commanders have operated as a standing premium to incapacity and presumption. It needs no argument to establish the injurious consequences of such a system. The facts of the situation and the events of the war are a sufficient commentary.

Richmond Whig.

Numerous efforts have been made by the Russian Government to induce the Pope, like the other sovereigns, to abandon the cause of Poland; and with glorious persistence the generous Pontiff showed himself the only organ of the protests of the martyr nation.—Very recently M. de Meyendorff addressed himself to Cardinal Antonelli and to the Pope himself, to request that his Holiness would at least promise to abstain from any manifestation during the stay of the Grand Duke at Rome. The Holy Father refused that abandonment, even temporarily, of his heroic children of Poland, and it was in consequence of that reply to the overtures of M. de Meyendorff that the announced visit of the Czarewitch was countermanded.

TELEGRAPHIC

Reports of the Press Association.

Entered according to the Act of Congress, in the year 1863, by J. S. THRASHER, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Confederate States for the Northern District of Georgia.

SECRETARY BENJAMIN ON THE PEACE COMMISSION.

RICHMOND, Feb. 10th, 1865.

Mr. Benjamin, in the course of his speech yesterday stated what occurred at the interview between President Davis and Mr. Blair. The President gave him a letter as follows:

Sir: I put down now in writing what I said to you in words. I am ready to confer for peace. If I had assurance that any commissioners would be sent to meet and treat with them, I would send commissioners for the purpose of devising peace for our two countries.

The answer of Lincoln to this not was: As you have shown to me the note brought with you from Richmond, you may say to Mr. Davis that I will see any informal agents to secure peace to our one country.

Mr. Benjamin said he believed when Blair first came to Richmond he had a hope that it was the opening for some arrangement which might lead to ultimate peace. Had the enemy been of the same mind he still believed there might have been some middle ground upon which they could have settled the question.

Mr. Benjamin advocated the immediate employment of negro volunteers to reinforce our armies and was loudly applauded by the meeting.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

RICHMOND, Feb. 10th, 1865.

The House adopted the joint resolution to adjourn *sine die* on the 28th and concurred in the Senate resolution of thanks to Mr. Lancaster, owner of the yacht Deerhound.

Mr. Barksdale submitted a bill providing for the employment of negro troops. A motion to reject the bill was lost by yeas 21 to nays 53. The bill was then referred to a select committee.

The tax bill was further discussed until adjournment.

In the Senate the House resolution for adjournment was rejected by a tie vote. During the debate Messrs. Wigfall and Maxwell expressed their unqualified opposition to negro troops. Subsequently Mr. Oldham introduced a bill to provide for raising two hundred thousand negro troops, which was referred to the Committee on military affairs.—The House exemption bill was debated and amended, but before final action was taken the Senate went into secret session.

FROM THE UNITED STATES.

RICHMOND, Feb. 10th, 1865.

Northern papers, including the evening edition of the Baltimore American, of the 8th inst., have been received. They admit considerable loss in the battle at Hatcher's run, but claim that the Confederates lost heavily. The object of the movement is not developed.

Mr. Foote arrived in New York on Tuesday, and is still in custody. His destination is reported to be one of the military prisons. He refuses to take the oath, and has expressed a desire to emigrate to Sonora.

Major Harry Gilmer was captured near Morefield recently.

The government of Brazil has issued a decree excluding the Shenandoah from the ports of the empire. Seward's answer in the case of the Florida had not been received.

Burley, the Lake Erie raider, has been surrendered to the United States by the Canadian authorities.

Gold 211.

From the Augusta, (Ga.) Constitutionalist.

RECORD OF A RETURNED PRISONER.

Forty-four days at Camp Chase—Thirty-two at Ft. Delaware and Thirty-one at Fortress Monroe, besides Short Seasons in the Nashville Penitentiary, Louisville Prison, and the Columbus, Ohio, and Philadelphia Barracks.

AUGUSTA, GA., Feb. 1st, 1865

Messrs. Editors

Up to a very recent period I have been within the United States since the 14th of August last, part of which time I was ordered to remain in Dalton and care for the wounded who fell in the engagement when Gen. Wheeler captured that place.

Of my treatment, which was in common with that of the fighting men, and in direct contravention to both the spirit and letter of the cartel, which expressly declares that the surgeon shall be respected when found in the discharge of his professional duties. I simply call attention to the length of time I was detained and the number of prisons in which I have been incarcerated as designated by the captions of this article.

During my transit through the Northern States, I conversed with individuals representing every class and faction of Federal politics, and although a few professed sympathy for me, and expressed a hope that we would succeed in our efforts for independence, by far the majority seemed filled with hatred and malignancy toward us, and declared their determination to crush or whip us back into the Union.

The idea of the Confederate Government freeing and arming the negroes to make battle against them, is most abhorrent to the Yankee crew, and the rumors that such a course would likely be adopted, produced a greater commotion in their ranks than a dozen Confederate victories would have done.

The masses of the Northern people are as tired of the war as we, and say that it will certainly last but a few months longer, our country being so nearly exhausted in all the resources for its continuation.

As to the propriety of putting the negroes into the field to fill up our depleted ranks, there is a diversity of opinion, but the feeling in favor of such a policy is said to be daily strengthening, and General Lee, whose army to-day stands between us and destruction, calls for the negro—says he can make soldiers out of "anything that has arms and legs." General Lee's opinion is surely entitled to much consideration. If he did not think the negro's services as a soldier were required, and that he could be used effectively, he certainly would never have asked for him.

That the negro can be taught to fight, and is susceptible of a high degree of drill and discipline, are facts that Yankee experiments have demonstrated, and that no one who has seen them on several occasions or manoeuvering on the field can gainsay.

If the Yankee can use him profitably in military operations, the Southerners who know his nature, could, by promises of freedom and plunder, employ him with equally as much profit.

As a slaveholder, and one who feels that every thing that makes life worth living is wrapped up in our struggle for independence, we say, if necessary for its achievement, free every negro in the Confederacy and put a musket on the shoulder of every one able to bear arms.

Respectfully,

W. A. MUKLEY,
Surg. P. A. C. S.

NEW ENGLAND VINDICTIVENESS.

The original disunion State of the old Confederacy was Massachusetts. She was in favor of disunion so long ago as the last war. Her Legislature passed secession resolutions as late as the annexation of Texas. It was in Massachusetts, long before Southern secession, that the compact of the Union was openly declared "a compact with hell." Practical nullification existed in New England long before Southern secession. The restoration of the Union is the last thing that, even now, New England desires. It spits upon the idea of any renewal of that alliance. It depreciates, above all other evils, a return to the old orders of things. It will not so much as hear of receiving the South on the old terms. South Carolina then, says the "Dispatch," ought to be the chief object of New England love and affection, instead of denunciation and hate.

We, too, on our part, can make a discrimination among our enemies. Badly as the North has behaved in general, we recognize, without difficulty, the motive influence of the war in New England Puritanism. It was the ascendancy of its turbulent and ferocious spirit in the councils of the United States which precipitated this war, and which has imparted to it its peculiar horrors. The motives of the Middle States and the Western are an entirely different kind of humanity.—Even the Masonic Lodges of the South are not recognized by the same order in New England. A New England General in the South lately destroyed Masonic property and refused to make any reparation. His superior officer a Western Mason, compelled him to do so. The Middle States and the West would hail with joy reconstruction. New England demands subjugation. Nay more, its clergy clamor for extermination.

The Boston "Recorder," a leading religious paper, edited by clergymen, and enjoying a large circulation, alludes to the danger to which the "loyal" North is exposed "from selfish desires for peace," and from being "too ready to take the Divine prerogative of forgiveness into our own hands, as if we were more merciful than God, and pardon those dreadful offenders whom the Lord, in mercy to posterity, has delivered to us to destroy." The "Recorder" proceeds to quote the example of Saul, who was reproved by the people for not utterly exterminating the wicked Amalekites, including the women and children. This the "Recorder" regards as a case in point, illustrating the dreadful iniquity of permitting any human being in the South to live and breathe.

AN ACT

TO AMEND AN ACT TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE HOME GUARD ORGANIZATION.

Sec. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same*, That the Governor, whenever he deems it expedient, may re organize the Guard for Home Defence, by causing two or more companies to be consolidated into one, so as to make not less than sixty-four men, rank and file, to each company: *Provided*, however, that if there are not sixty home guards in any one county, that such number as may be shall be incorporated into a company. The said companies, when so consolidated, shall have the privilege of electing their company officers from the rank and file of said companies; and such officers as shall not be elected for service in said company shall be required to perform service as non commissioned officers or privates, under the same rules and regulations as other non commissioned officers and privates are required to serve, and whilst so serving their commissions shall be suspended.

Sec. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That the Governor may in like manner, call into two or more battalions or regiments of Home Guards to be consolidated; said battalions, when so consolidated, to be composed of not less than three companies, and said regiments, when so consolidated, of not more than ten companies; that the rank and file shall elect their field officers, and all field officers who shall not be elected, their commissions shall be suspended, and they required to perform duty in the ranks as non-commissioned officers and privates.

Sec. 3. *Be it further enacted*, That in addition to the exemptions mentioned in the second section of an act in relation to the Militia and Guard for Home Defence, ratified 7th July, 1863, there shall be exempt one Commissioner to each County, appointed under an act entitled "an act for the relief of wives and families of soldiers in the army;" the Attorney General; Solicitors for the several Circuits and Counties; County Trustee; County Surveyors; Physicians of five years' practice; one Editor to a newspaper and necessary compositors and employees, to be certified to on oath by the Editor; mail carriers; professors in colleges, and teachers, who at the passage of this act had, and shall continue to have twenty scholars; the necessary skilled operatives in factories and foundries: regular public millers and blacksmiths, and wheelwrights who have established shops; regular public tanners and shoemakers, and one overseer of the poor of each County: *Provided*, all the tradesmen thus exempted shall be skilled in their respective trades, and were employed in the same prior to the 1st of Jan., 1864, and have continued to be so employed since that time; except public millers, who shall be exempt whenever they are so engaged unless it shall appear that owners of mills have turned off their millers and gone in themselves to evade the service, then such owners not to be exempt: *Provided*, that the exemptions in this act shall not apply to Home Guard Officers commissioned under this act to serve in the ranks, and who would be entitled to exemption if they did not hold commissions: *And provided further*, that no provision of this act shall be construed so as to exempt any person herein mentioned from Home Guard Duty in the County in which he resides.

Sec. 4. *Be it further enacted*, That all laws and clauses of laws coming in conflict with this act be, and the same are hereby repealed.

Sec. 5. *Be it further enacted*, That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

Ratified in General Assembly this 7th day of February, 1865.

DANIEL G. FOWLE, *pro tem* S. H. C.
GILES MEBANE, S. S.

CONVERSATIONS WITH CONFEDERATE LEADERS.

The Richmond correspondent of the Liverpool "Courier," writes the following in a recent letter to that paper:

I sent you a letter dated King George County, Virginia, which, I fear, has been detained by Mr. Seward, who does not favor the freedom of the press. It advised you of a movement in high quarters here, towards an entire change in the laws concerning slavery.

Since writing that letter I spent a day with General R. E. Lee, and when this subject was introduced, he interrupted the conversation and said, "I wish you to understand my views on this subject. I am favorable to the use of our servants in the army. I think we can make better soldiers of them than Lincoln can. He claims to have two hundred thousand in his service.—We can destroy the value of all such soldiers to him by using ours against them. I do not see why I should not have the use of such available materials as well as he. I would hold out to them the certainty of freedom and a home, when they shall have rendered efficient service. He has not given them a home. Nor can he give them officers who understand and manage them as well as we can."

On the next day I conversed with Gen. S. Cooper, Adjutant and Inspector General C. S. A. He said: "I agree with Gen. Lee in his views. I would not await the slow action of Legislatures on the subject—We have already used them in place of soldiers as teamsters and in engineer service. We can use them in other ways. There is no reason for delay. Let them be placed in the field, and give them freedom for faithful service to the State."

The Government has inaugurated such a movement by making (during the present month) a draft of free and slave negroes, nominally for erection of field works, etc., but really to drill and prepare them for home defence. I traveled to Richmond in a train containing one or two carriages crowded with these drafted negroes.

I have seen President Davis, and observed him under those circumstances which give the clue to character, and draw out the real feelings and power of the man. My first interview presented him in his own house, playing with his children, who were asleep in the library, where, after dinner, I awaited him. "Wake up, Jeff! you little rebel, wake up and go to bed!" and then there was a scene that drew out all the tender affections of a noble heart towards the beautiful children whom he loved and was teaching to love. He lately lost a fine boy, the youngest, who fell from an upstairs window.

I next saw him as an humble, quiet, dignified but devout worshipper, bowing down on his knees before his Maker in St. Paul's Church, where General R. E. Lee was also an humble and devout worshipper.

The third interview presented him as the statesman, in his official capacity; and as he rapidly disposed of the cases brought before him by distinguished men, who successively filed before him, and as he touched his bell and called some high authority of the Government to meet some unusual case, I saw that the statesman could play with the men as well as the father could play with his child.

The Rev. Dr. M. presented a petition from a clergyman and thirty others, unarmed and peaceable citizens, who had been arrested and imprisoned by the enemy. He says: "My heart bleeds over the sufferings inflicted on my countrymen by a ruthless foe. I will do all I can to relieve them."

A veteran and valued Colonel, paroled from a Federal prison, was presented. He said: "Colonel, I am busy. You will breakfast with me to-morrow."

The raid on the Canada frontier was mentioned. I understood him to say something as follows: "These small pillering and burning expeditions vex and annoy the enemy, cause great vigilance, without bringing about peace or effecting the true object of retaliation. Should it become necessary to wage war against the people, as well as the Government, let us strike hard—let no second stroke be needed."

Sheridan had lately destroyed bridges, &c., on the Virginia Central Railroad, near Staunton. I was surprised to find myself traveling over these bridges reconstructed. He had also destroyed the bridge over South Anna (as high as that over the Menai Straits.) That also has been rebuilt. This is true of six or eight other railways.

ADDRESS OF GEN. WISE.—At the request of the Legislature General Henry A. Wise delivered, on Saturday night, in the Hall of the House of Delegates, an address to about five hundred out of five thousand sought to hear him. Never had we seen such a rush, struggle and press to obtain a standing place (sitting being utterly impossible.) It was a high compliment this immense outturning of all classes to hear once again "the Tribune of the People," and well was the fortunate hearer repaid, and much did those who failed lose. The address was on the war and its prospects and our duties. Gen. Wise is for fighting on until our complete independence is acknowledged by the enemy. He approved no compromise, no reconstruction, no armistice—independence only could stop the war. His argument upon the Constitution and its violations, as evidence of the faithlessness and utterly unreliableness of the enemy was now, striking, and, to the doubtful, convincing. We shall not attempt any analysis of the address. As the General has been requested to repeat it, it may again be delivered in this city. We hope that a large audiance may be permitted to hear the address.—*Rich. Enquirer, 6th inst.*

FORTY MILES AN HOUR AT SEA.—The Liverpool Mercury observes that Mr. James Strick, working joiner of that town, has invented a screw propeller, and that he states from experiments made on the Prince's Park Lake, that with this screw he can get four times the speed of the ordinary screw, with the same engine and with the same pressure of steam.—The screws are worked reverse by means of two wheels at the centre boxes of the screws, and can be replaced at sea at any time, and, being one-third above the water, can be unshipped without any difficulty.

The Wheeling Intelligencer of the 20th says:—"General Phil Sheridan and staff arrived in this city yesterday afternoon by special train from Parkersburg. Gen. Sheridan is a small, thick-set man, apparently about thirty-two or thirty-three years of age, and wears a light moustache and goatee."

Additional Extracts from Letters addressed to Washington, during the Revolutionary War.

[From General Greene, dated at Philadelphia, 31st October, 1780.]

"I see but little prospect of getting a force to contend with the enemy [in the South] upon equal grounds, and, therefore, must make the most of a kind of partisan war, until we can levy and equip a larger force. Such was the difficulty of getting provisions and providing the means of transportation, that Gen. Gates writes, in his last letter, that the army was in the utmost danger of disbanding."

[From General Sullivan, dated at Philadelphia, 12th November, 1780.]

"I feel very sensibly for the Southern States, and fear a conquest by force, or a defection, which will bring about a base submission. We are informed that Clinton is about to embark with a great part of his army for Virginia. Should this event take place, I fear the loss of the four Southern States will be the consequence."

[From Gen Greene, dated at Richmond, 19th November, 1780.]

"I am happy in the opportunity of answering your Excellency, that I am received and treated with all the marks of respect and attention that I can wish. Your letters have been of singular service." "Your weight and influence both with Congress and the State, in support of the Southern operations, will be exceedingly important and necessary to my success." "It has been my opinion for a long time that personal influence must supply the defects of civil constitution; but, I have never been so fully convinced of it as on this journey. I believe the wishes and views of the great body of the people are certainly with us. But remove the personal influence of a few, and they are a lifeless and inanimate mass, without direction or spirit to employ the means they possess for their own security."

[From Josiah Quincy, dated Braintree, 27th November, 1780.]

"In the same proportion as ideal money is forced into currency, it must, from the nature of everything fraudulent, be forced out of credit. I have said 'from the nature of everything *fraudulent*,' because I am firmly of the opinion, and think it entirely defensible, that there never was a paper dollar or a paper promise of any kind, that ever yet obtained a general currency but by force or fraud—generally by both."

[From Governor Nash, of North Carolina, dated at Newbern, 17th December, 1780.]

"The enemy have not been entirely free of trouble off Charleston and on the coast in that quarter. During the summer they have suffered very considerable by our privateers, particularly by open row boats. These boats, with forty or fifty men on board, take almost everything that comes in their way. Two who went in company returned here this week, after a cruise of about 20 days, in which time they took and sent in 17 valuable prizes, besides burning, I think, four."

"There has been lately a second transportation of Charleston citizens to St. Augustine. Among these is Mr. Middleton, the younger. Even the ladies do not escape their vengeance. Mrs. Kinloch and Mrs. Ben Hugher have written to me of their distresses."

[From Gov. Rutledge, of South Carolina, dated at Cheraw on Pee Dee River, 28th December, 1780.]

"The enemy have hanged many people, who from fear, or the impracticability of removing, had received protections, or given paroles, and from attachment to, had afterwards taken part with us. They have burnt a great number of houses, and turned many women, formerly of good fortune, with children, (whom their husbands or parents from an unwillingness to join the enemy,) had left, almost naked, in the woods."

From the Richmond Sentinel.

GEN. LEE AS COMMANDER-IN CHIEF.

The country and the army will be delighted to hear that Gen. Robert E. Lee was on yesterday nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate, as Commander-in-Chief of the Confederate armies. We do not doubt that he will yield to the call thus made upon him, and enter without delay upon his enlarged sphere of duty—retaining personal command, however, of the army of Northern Virginia.

Let our whole people and our government, in all its departments, rally to support of Gen. Lee in the position to which he has been thus appointed, with all the resources and all the zeal and energy at our command. We must not expect him to do our fighting, but to direct it; not to render unnecessary our own efforts, but to encourage them, and guide them, and apply them.

We stand on the threshold of a stern campaign.—Soon we shall be busy amid its trying scenes. As we love our country let us not lose another day of those which remain to us for preparation. Let the most efficient means be adopted for gathering in the absentees from our armies, for bringing in recruits, for a wholesome reorganization, for providing supplies and munitions, and for putting forth our whole strength. We have called General Lee to the command, let us heed his counsels and second his effort,

We have the material for an admirable campaign.—We have a noble and powerful army. We have a wide country. We have abundant supplies. We are less straitened for munitions after four years of war that we were in the first campaign. We can do great things if we will apply ourselves to the work like men. We trust that every bickering will now be hushed and that there will be among us only a noble emulation which shall best serve his country, and best support our leaders.

SHERMAN'S MOVEMENTS.

No official information was received Tuesday, but reports deemed reliable state that the enemy tapped the South Carolina Rail Road yesterday morning in three places, viz: Midway, Blackville and Bamberg.

A passenger who left Augusta Monday afternoon on an ordnance train states that the whooping and shouting of the enemy could be distinctly heard in the distance as the train passed Williston. It is supposed they reached the South Carolina Road, early Tuesday morning. The train from Branchville came through all safe Tuesday evening. Passengers by this train report the road cut at Williston, and state that the enemy had turned off towards Augusta. A number of militia, principally boys, are reported captured by the enemy.—*Chas. Courier 8th inst.*

The New Flag.

The new Confederate flag adopted by the Senate, Saturday, is as follows: The width two-thirds of its length, with the union (now used as the battle-flag) to be in width three-fifths of the width of the flag, and so proportioned as to leave the length of the field on the side of the Union twice the width below it; to have the ground red and a broad blue saltier thereon, bordered with white and emblazoned with mullets or five pointed stars, corresponding in number to that of the Confederate States; the field to be white, except the outer half from the union, which shall be a red bar extending the width of the flag.—*Rich. Sentinel.*

THE CAPE COD YANKEE.—A young man visiting Boston introduced himself as follows:

My name is Ichabod Erastus Pickerel, I used to keep a grocery store deown Cape Cod. Patience Doolittle, she kept a notion store right over opposite. One day, Patience come into my store arter a pitcher of lasses, for home consumption, (ye see, I had a kind of a sneaking notion arter Patience for some time,) so, ses I, Patience, how would you like to be made Mrs. Pickrel? Upon that, she kerflounced herself rite down on a bag of salt in a sort of kniption fit. I seased the pitcher, forgetting what was in it, and soused the molasses all over her, and there she sat looking like Mount Vesuvious with the lava running deown its sides; ye see, she was kivered with love, transport and molasses. She was a master larger gal, of her bigness, she weighed three hundred overdupoise, and a *breakfast over*. She could throw enermost any feller in our neighborhood, at *Indian hugs*. Arter awhile, she kum tu, and I imprinted a kiss on her bussers, that is, as near as I could for the molasses, and twan't more than a spell and a half, before *we caught a couple of little Pickrels*.—The whooping cough collered one of them, and *snaked him right sout of town*. The other one had a fight with the measles, and got licked. Mrs. Pickrel took to having the typhus fever for a living, and twan't more than a half a spell before she busted up, and left me a disconsolate widerer. If you know of any putty gals that is in the market, just tell them that I am thar myself.

GEN. FORREST.—As a large number of our readers would like to know the whereabouts of the "Wizzard of the Saddle," we suggest to them to be quiet for a few days only, and he will bring rejoicing to every true Southern beating heart, as he is now getting ready for the move, and when he does move he will make the howl of his roaring beard among the negroes and Yankees in the West.—*Mississippian Extra.*

The scientific world of Paris are much occupied by the experiment which M. Graof intends making in a few days of flying from the towers of Notre Dame by his new machine.

MEDICINE FOR THE FAINT-HEARTED.

The fall of Savannah, and the threatened march of Sherman through South and North Carolina, says the Lynchburg Republican, presents so striking a parallel between the fall of Charleston and the march of Cornwallis through the same State in 1778, that reference to it cannot be made without its good moral effects upon the thoughtful reader.

"In the Revolutionary war, the American General—Lincoln—committed the folly of shutting himself up in Charleston with the entire army destined to defend the South. The consequences might have been foreseen.—The enemy, having the entire command of the sea, shut up the harbor of Charleston, and, landing forces at Beaufort, invested it by land. The city not only fell, but it carried the army along with it. Every man was captured, and the Southern States left entirely without an army. It was then that the spirit of the people rose to supply the place of a regular army. It was then that Sumter, Marion and Clarke first began to teach the British that, though they had captured Savannah and Charleston, they had not conquered South Carolina and Georgia. Cornwallis, like Sherman, commenced his march northward. He overthrew the army of Gates at Camden, and, for awhile, put an end to all regular opposition. But Marion and Sumter were still at work, and in less than two months after Camden, came King's mountain, and in three months more the defeat of Tarleton at the Cowpens by Morgan's regulars and militia. We are more fortunate than were our forefathers. They lost Charleston, and with it a whole army. We have simply lost Savannah, which had been blockaded and rendered useless for two years.—The army is safe, intact and existing, to serve as a nucleus arpund which our reinforcements may rally."

Some timid ones there are amongst us, who regard every disaster as fatal to our cause, and who are without the nerve to face danger or rally from the effects of a panic. The loss of a city or of a battle throws them into hysterics, and leaves them with as little backbone as an empty meal bag. They are for giving up the fight at once, and bowing their necks in cowardly submission to the hated yoke of Lincoln. God help such cowardly spirits! It was different with our heroic ancestors in the days which tried men's souls. They could look danger full in the face without wincing—they could see Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Richmond, Charleston, Savannah and Mobile fall into the hands of the enemy, and still spit defiance in the face of the foe. They could see the whole army of the South under the American General—Lincoln—captured at Charleston, and see Cornwallis march almost unopposed through the heart of the Carolinas, without for one moment thinking of the humiliation and ruin of submission. Are our people less patriotic or less brave than our revolutionary fathers? Or have we less pains or penalties to suffer from our enemies in the event of conquest? Is the example of Marion and of Sumpter and of Clarke, with only a handful of brave men, worth nothing to us in the present day? Are eight millions of freemen to be conquered, when less than three millions triumphed in 1778? If so, we are the degenerate sons of a noble ancestry, and the glory of the one will live in eternal contrast with the infamy of the other.

The Commissioners returned on last Saturday evening, having gone as far as Fortress Monroe, where, without being permitted to land, they had an interview with both Lincoln and Seward. *Abolition and Reconstruction* was the only terms of peace which the enemy would entertain—that is, immediate recognition by us of the equality, social and political, of the negroes, and unconditional submission, with the pains and penalties of rebellion—confiscation of property and the penalty of death to as many as the mercy of Mr. Lincoln may confine the punishment. Thus ends the peace excitement. The enemy are yet too much elated by their recent successes to entertain any proposition that does not submit these States to a future of political inequality with the other States, and these people to a future of vassalage to the loyal citizens of the Union.

Having, therefore, made an honest effort to open negotiations with the enemy, by which peace might eventually be got, and having been met with terms degrading in their character and ruinous in their effects, the people of these States have but one course left them—*They must fight it out.* To surrender is to lose all—property, liberty, life—and to enter upon a future of slavery which, within six months, would certainly drive them again to war. There were some few persons who thought that honorable terms of reconciliation and reconstruction could be obtained, and who desired that an effort should be made. That effort has been made by three of the best statesmen that could have been selected, and that effort has resulted in the insulting terms proposed by the enemy. The Reconstructionist is required to become a Submissionist—to consent to the future equality of the negro—to his own impoverishment—to the degradation of his children as rebels unfit for future places of honor and trust. However much men may have desired peace, they cannot be willing to entertain such propositions. There is, therefore, but one thing left us—*fight*, FIGHT, FIGHT!

This conduct of Lincoln, in inviting commissioners through Mr. Blair, soliciting Mr. Davis to send them, and then the submission of insults as propositions, is quite within the decency of a Yankee. But it has opened the eyes of all; there will be no reconstructionists in these States when these terms are read by the people. Unity of purpose and unity of means have been secured by this Hampton Roads interview; our people will be again united and again rally to the support of the cause. For the sake of harmony more than from any hopes of success these commissioners were sent to the enemy, and these propositions of insult and degradation will have the effect of securing that harmony and uniting these people in the holy war for liberty, self-preservation, State and individual honor.

This saltwater interview puts a quietus on separate State action. The terms required by the enemy are not likely to need a convention in any State for their consideration. The man that now would, for an instant, advocate the consideration of these terms is ready and willing to be a slave to his own negro. To such degradation and disgrace war has not yet brought any of these people. Reconstruction and separate State action are all that this peace commission has effected, and these it has *killed dead.*

Now, since the enemy have told us their ultimatum, and will not entertain any other proposition, since we must fight or we are slaves, since now the question of reconstruction is one of fact and not theory, and that too the fact of slavery for the white man, freedom for the negro, poverty for the white man and our property for the Yankee, let us all unite in harmonious and determined effort to defeat the enemy, and teach him that though we are, for humanity's sake, desirous of ending the war, yet, not for the life of us all, will we consent to such terms as those proposed. The campaign of 1865 must go on, and on its issue depends the future of these people. If defeated and destroyed in that campaign, those that survive will have nothing worse to submit to than is now demanded by the enemy, while those that fall will be, at least, free from slavery, dishonor and infamy; while if we are successful, we shall not only escape the fate of infamy proposed for us by the enemy, but secure the blessings of liberty and property to us and to our children forever.

Since nothing but fight is left us since the enemy will not permit any discussion of the means of ending the war, let all determine that, so far as we can, the fight shall be a good one—shall be a fight to which our children's children can point with the pride of freemen as the campaign which made their country free from the despotism of a mean, low, wretched people. Let us fight the fight out, and leave to God the issue of its battles; do our duty, and God will neither forsake us nor permit us to be overcome. We learn that the commissioners will make a report, in writing, to the President to-day.—*Richmond Enquirer, 6th Feb.*

NAPOLEON'S LIFE OF JULIUS CÆSAR.—A London paper has the following literary paragraph:

"M. Henri Plon is busily engaged at the Imperial printing office superintending the printing of the forthcoming "Life of Cæsar." A magnificent edition of 1000 copies has been ordered to be got up for the purpose of presentation to crowned heads, foreign ambassadors and literary or political celebrities. A popular edition, however, will appear about the middle of February. The Emperor, it is stated, has ordered the work to be translated into English, and has undertaken to revise the proofs himself.

There is a good deal of speculation in English literary circles as to the probable translator of the French *Vie de Cæsar*. It is said that several eminent authors have gone from London to Paris to apply for the permission, but that up to the present moment no appointment has been made. The day of publication for the first volume is fixed for the 10th of next month; and, as it is the Emperor's wish that it should appear simultaneously in French, German and English, there is not very much time left for the task. M. Frohner, Conservateur of the Library at the Louvre, has done the German translation. Volume one will be devoted to the geographic and archæologic description of Cæsar's campaign in Gaul."

Mr. E Molyneaux, the late British Consul at Savannah, Georgia, died in France on the 16th of November.

"HOW IS GOLD TO-DAY?"

BY JOHN G. SAXE.

There was a time when if we met
A friend upon the street
He talked on common themes—the weather,
The cold, or else the heat,
And took an interest in one's health
That time has passed away;
Now, no one asks us how we do,
But "How is gold to-day?"

These words pervade the atmosphere
At weddings, funerals, balls,
No matter where, upon our ear
The anxious question falls.
You go to see the girl you love,
To drive your cares away;
You kiss, and then she sweetly says,
"Oh! How is gold to day?"

Gold is up or gold is down,
What good for me to know?
There is no jingle in my purse,
My funds are still in quo;
And so I hate the endless cry
And long to soar away,
To lands of peace, where no one asks,
"Well, How is gold to-day?"

Our readers will perhaps be pleased to see the portion of Mr. Monroe's message to Congress, delivered in 1823, from which the Monroe doctrine took its origin and derived its name:

FROM PRESIDENT MONROE'S SEVENTH ANNUAL MESSAGE, DEC. 2, 1823.

"It was stated, at the commencement of the last session, that a great effort was then making in Spain and Portugal to improve the condition of the people of those countries, and that it appeared to be conducted with extraordinary moderation. It need scarcely be remarked that the result has been, so far, very different from what was then anticipated. Of events in that quarter of the globe, with which we have so much intercourse, and from which we derive our origin, we have always been anxious and interested spectators. The citizens of the United States cherish the most friendly in favor of the liberty and happiness of their fellow men on that side of the Atlantic. In the wars of the European powers, in matters relating to themselves, we have never taken any part, nor does it comport with our policy to do so. It is only when our rights are invaded or seriously menaced, that we resent injuries, or make preparation for our defence. With the movements in this hemisphere we are of necessity more immediately connected, and by causes which must be obvious to all enlightened and impartial observers. The political system of the allied powers is essentially different in this respect from that of America. This difference proceeds from that which exists in their respective governments. And to the defence of our own, which has been achieved by the loss of so much blood and treasure, and matured by the wisdom of their most enlightened citizens, and under which we have enjoyed unexampled felicity, this whole nation is devoted. We owe it, therefore, to candor and to the amicable relations existing between the United States and these powers, to declare, that we consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety. With the existing colonies or dependencies of any European power we have not interfered, and shall not interfere. But the governments who have declared their independence, and maintained it, and whose independence we have, on great consideration, and on just principles, acknowledged, we could not view any interposition for the purpose of oppressing them, or controlling in any other manner their destiny, by any European power, in any other light than as the manifestation of an unfriendly disposition towards the United States. In the war between these new governments and Spain, we declared our neutrality at the time of their recognition, and to this we have adhered, and shall continue to adhere, provided no change shall occur which, in the judgment of the competent authorities of this government, shall make a corresponding change on the part of the United States indispensable to their security.

The late events in